

Elizabeth
with first
led flight

ON (R) — Elizabeth's first flight was a Buckingham Palace helicopter. The British royal arrived in London from London morning after a flight with 400 guests and commensals. "The queen was very well behaved after a long travelling with my told a news. The queen's New Zealand an estimated land dollars (630,000) at a royal family under fire for the first time. The first on the Air New Zealand flight was a special and the cabin with seats accommodate a table and a king area. The few Zealand in Commonwealth of the entire first and off to herself and the agents in the specified area.

ork waiter
oyal slap

RK (AP) — a royal slap — from an Iranian who didn't know the monarch. He prince expected to be prince and prince hit with a late Prince, who said, "I'm a loudmouth the circus-like offered to a crowd of Prince Rainier Prince Albert and Caroline. "He the little pigging with his head shouted as the royal family, he quoted witness saying, "you're Prince, but if the thwons, would you Albert?" Prince appeared annoyed with the project after his dinner party. Prince Rainier said, "I'm not a prince with some own. The prince Wyatt engaged in a fight with Prince using a spoon. It spokeswoman Martel told the Prince Rainier strawberry at the end around as he notioned to him. His Royal took a good shot's head with the hand, said one was shocked when he left the room. P. skipping photo session with family.

ryshnikov
nounces
sical dance

Y (AFP) — Danc Mikhail Baryshnikov Wednesday never return to dance, but that one day go back to Russia, which he 1974. Aged 47 and rare of his physical dance given up because of daily injuries, he added to the dance now to me. Baryshnikov, who is performing for the first time in the U.S., pledged to return to the U.S.

3 dead, 300 injured in Argentine blasts
CORDOBA (AFP) — A series of devastating explosions ripped through a state munitions factory in the central province of Cordoba Friday, killing at least three people and injuring nearly 300 others, authorities said. Flaming clouds of dust into the air over Rio Tercero, Cordoba, according to a radio reporter who overflew the disaster scene in a helicopter. Houses near the Rio Tercero military factory were heavily damaged, the reporter for LV3 radio said. The first explosion erupted in the plant's powder depots at 9:00 a.m. (1200 GMT) and was followed by a series of blasts that grew in intensity and continued at intervals of 10 to 15 minutes for more than two hours. Gerardo Sirona, a worker at an adjacent petrochemical plant, said the first blast was of "terrifying magnitude," sending up a mushroom cloud over the town. Women and children fled to surrounding farmland after the explosions set off a wave of panic in the town some 700 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires.

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Iraq invites Israeli Arab poets to festival
TEL AVIV (R) — Iraq has invited a number of Israeli Arab poets to participate in a poetry festival in Baghdad from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1. Kol Al Arab newspaper, an Israeli Arabic weekly based in Nazareth, on Friday published a copy of an invitation sent by the Iraqi minister of culture and information to its chief editor, poet Samih Al Qassem. "Proud of you personally and your literary contribution, the preparatory committee of the Al Marbad Poetry Conference has the pleasure of inviting you to the festival which will commence in Baghdad," the invitation said. Mr. Qassem was not immediately available to comment on the invitation. Israel Radio in Arabic said other poets had received similar invitations. Since the 1991 Gulf war, there have been media reports of feelers on contacts between the two countries. The reports are routinely denied by both states.

King donates Asturias Award money to Jubilee School

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has donated \$40,000 to the Jubilee School of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation to help the school carry out its mission in the best manner. The donation represents the amount of the Asturias Award which was awarded to King Hussein in appreciation of the King's role in achieving peace in the region. The King was given this award at a special ceremony held recently in the Spanish state of Asturias.

Hungarian minister begins Jordan visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Hungarian Foreign Minister Laslo Kovach, who is head of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, arrived in Amman Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with senior Jordanian officials. Mr. Kovach said in a statement to Petra, that the main focus of his talks in Amman will be ways to enhance Jordanian-Hungarian cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields. Praising Jordan's key role in the Middle East peace process, the Hungarian minister described Jordan as an important partner for Hungary for two important reasons: first its political stability, and second its principled and balanced foreign policies in the Arab and Islamic world. The minister, who will visit several archaeological and touristic sites in the Kingdom, will hold a press conference on Saturday outlining the objectives of his visit.

Rifkind puts off Mideast departure

LONDON (AFP) — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has postponed his departure for a tour of the Middle East from Sunday to Monday because of a tight agenda, the Foreign Office announced Friday. Mr. Rifkind also changed his travel route and will now first visit Saudi Arabia, where he will stay until Tuesday. He will then travel on to Syria on Wednesday and to Israel and the occupied territories. Next Friday, Mr. Rifkind will go to Jordan. He will be in Egypt on the morning of Nov. 11 and in Lebanon the afternoon of the same day.

Tripoli denounces Israel-Qatar deal

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya urged Arab states on Friday to block Qatar's sale of liquefied natural gas to Israel, which it denounced as an affront to Arab unity. The official Libyan daily Al Zahf denounced what it described as the "extreme state of weakness of the (Arab) Nation," which has permitted a "country like Qatar to without shame or fear sign a cooperation accord with Israel, and in the absence of Arab reaction to this arrangement." Israel signed a memorandum of understanding earlier this week with the U.S. energy company Enron to buy up to three million tonnes of liquefied natural gas a year from Qatar.

PNA bans Al Bilad

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestinian National Authority has banned a Jordanian weekly newspaper, Al Bilad, from entering the self-rule areas because it published a news report hinting that PNA President Yasser Arafat was involved in the assassination of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shaqaqi in Malta last week, sources said.

Pelletreau arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau arrived here Friday to discuss the Iraqi situation and other Middle East issues with Kuwaiti leaders, the official KUNA news agency said.

PNA police hold Islamic Jihad suspects in new suicide blasts

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) police have arrested at least two supporters of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip after a double bombing wounded 11 Israelis, the militant group said Friday. The suspects were seized at home during the night, the group said in a statement without saying how many were detained. Palestinian security chief General Abdul Razek Al Majaida would only say that the self-rule authority had "taken preventative measures in the past days" to thwart any anti-Israeli attacks. Two Palestinian suicide bombers died when their booby-trapped cars blew up near a crossing from Israel into the Gaza Strip, wounding 11 Israelis, most bus passengers on their way to work from the Naqib desert. One was "fairly seriously" wounded, the army said. The double attack came a week after the murder of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shaqaqi on the island of Malta in a killing blamed on the Israeli secret services. The Palestinian group vowed they would avenge his death on Oct. 26 by killing Israelis. One of the suspects arrested for Thursday's bombing is a man suspected of buying two cars used in the suicide bomb attacks. Gen. Majaida, commander of the Palestinian police in Gaza, said the man was detained on Thursday night, several hours after the two suicide attacks. He identified the man as a member of the Kahlout family and said he was being questioned on his links to the bombings. No one claimed responsibility for the attacks. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat apparently is reluctant to crack down severely since the bombings came in response to the assassination of Shaqaqi. "Our mission is to reduce such attacks through dialogue and explaining to them that these responses will negatively effect the peace process," said Gen. Majaida. A leader of Islamic Jihad hinted in his Friday sermon that his group has carried them out to avenge the slain leader. "Yesterday was the beginning of the response and the

journey is long," Abdullah Shami, a clergyman, told hundreds of worshippers at Islamic Jihad's Al Qassem mosque in Beit Lahia, north of Gaza City. In his sermon, Sheikh Shami scoffed at the self-rule government's calls for restraint and their warnings that more attacks against Israel could delay the expansion of autonomy to the West Bank. "They are requesting that we remain silent so that we can return to the (West Bank)," Sheikh Shami said. "But we tell them that the land is not more precious than human beings... that this could not happen at the expense of our dignity." As part of the Palestinian government's conciliatory signals, Mr. Arafat on Thursday visited the Shaqaqi family in the Gaza Strip to pay his condolences. Palestinian police also said a planned Islamic Jihad rally Saturday at a Gaza City sports stadium would go ahead as planned. Still, Thursday's bombings were embarrassing for Mr. Arafat since they were planned and carried in PLO territory. Israel has warned that it would freeze its planned troop pullback in the West Bank should Mr. Arafat not be able to rein in the militants and prevent attacks. Israel filed a formal protest with Mr. Arafat over his failure to prevent the bombings, an Israeli military official said Friday. Israeli officials told Mr. Arafat that after Shaqaqi's death there were repeated warnings of possible attacks, and that Mr. Arafat's security forces should have done more to prevent them, according to Israeli radio. However, Gen. Majaida said it would be difficult to prevent additional attacks because tempers were running high. "It would be impossible for us to stop them from retaliating, because he (Shaqaqi) was their leader," he said. Another Palestinian commander, intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Musa Arafat, has said Shaqaqi's killing put an end to a "gentlemen's agreement" between the group and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to halt anti-Israeli attacks for the time being. A newspaper said Friday Shaqaqi told a friend shortly before his death that Zionism



QUEEN IN SOUTH AFRICA: Her Majesty Queen Noor in Johannesburg on Friday with South African President Nelson Mandela. Queen Noor, president of the United World Colleges, began a visit to South Africa on Thursday to attend the annual congress of the United World Colleges, the first time the event is held in South Africa (see page 3) (AFP photo)

MENA summit delegations describe event as success and praise Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of Arab and foreign delegations that took part in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit last week have left for home voicing satisfaction with the outcome of the meetings and hopes for continued cooperation for regional development. Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Mohammed Abu Bakr was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as describing the summit as successful by any standards, citing the participation of a large number of delegates and the constructive discussions held during the sessions. He said the meeting served as a forum for charting the economic future for the Middle East and North Africa region. Dr. Ahmad Qouriea, minister of economy in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said that the meeting was well-organized and involved great number of business people who voiced their satisfaction with the results. "I can say that the summit has achieved success beyond expectation," said Mr. Qouriea who paid tribute to the active participation in the meetings by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

He said that the participation of major world companies gave indication that the region is in for profitable investments in the coming future. The Australian trade delegation which attended the summit left for the West Bank saying that they were impressed by the organization and the management of the conference. The positive factors far exceeded any negative ones, especially considering that the summit decided on the establishment of a Middle East development bank which would finance the regional schemes the delegation leader, John Bouton, was quoted as saying. He said upon his return home he will submit a report to the government which can make a full assessment of the summit. Majed Maliki, head of the Qatar chamber of industry and trade, described the summit as a major world economic event aimed at promoting the development of the Middle East and North Africa region. He said in a statement to Petra that the majority of countries expressed willingness to finance regional schemes. The 43-member Qatari delegation held talks with Jordanian counterparts to discuss the implementation of Jordanian and Palestinian

projects, he added. According to Maher Kurd, advisor to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on economic affairs, the summit succeeded in opening new avenues for cooperation among regional countries and between the region and the world at large. The head of the Chinese delegation to the summit Tian Ching, left for the West Bank saying that the creation of proper mechanisms and institutions for implementing the summit's resolutions reflected the participants' determination on implementing the various projects. "I consider the conference a success because it has helped to enhance the region's cooperation with the rest of the world," said the official. Abdul Muhsen Hanif, the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry, undersecretary who led his country's delegation to the summit, lauded the effort of the various sectors in organizing a successful conference. Speaking before departure for home, Mr. Hanif said that the conference offered a good opportunity for the private sector to invest in this region. He said that Kuwait did not propose any plans but its delegation participated in all the discussions over regional development. (Continued on page 7)

U.S. Senate extends PNA aid for 30 days

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Senate has voted to extend U.S. aid to Palestinians for 30 days following the expiration of legislation that had been held up by a political dispute. The aid programme ended at midnight Tuesday after lawmakers failed to renew the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEFA), which provides some \$100 million in aid and gives the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) authority to operate an office in Washington (see page 2). The Senate voted late Thursday to extend the programme temporarily, sending it to the House of Representatives, where a vote was expected next week. Earlier Thursday, the State Department said it was required to order the PLO to close its U.S. office in accordance with the law. An 18-month extension of the legislation is contained in a larger foreign aid bill for fiscal 1996, which is being held up by a dispute over an unrelated amendment on abortion.

Balkan leaders study Bosnia peace proposal

DAYTON, Ohio (Agencies) — Balkan leaders on Friday studied a peace blueprint of "hard choices," negotiators say, after a first day of talks dominated by territory and war crimes. Mediators gave the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia four draft documents, including a "framework agreement," they hope will be the backbone of a peace accord to end 3½ years of carnage in Bosnia. "I expect the parties will take a day or two to look very intensively at these documents... they represent the hard choices that will have to be made at the Dayton talks in order to reach an agreement," U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. The other documents cover elections once the war is ended, constitutional issues and the separation of military and paramilitary forces, Mr. Burns said in Washington. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has identified the election and constitutional issues as the most difficult facing the talks, along with territorial questions. The three leaders held a first private session of talks on Thursday and according to sources close to them raised the issues of justice for those accused of war crimes and the status of some territory that has traded hands. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic pressed for Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, negotiating on behalf of Bosnian Serbs, to hand over indicted war criminals to an international tribunal in the Hague. This would cover Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and army commander General Ratko Mladic, both named by the tribunal. The U.S. government has already indicated the NATO forces might not be deployed in a peace force if the two are still in power. Mr. Izetbegovic was also reported by Bosnian radio to have called on Serbia to intervene to stop Bosnian Serbs driving Muslims out of western Bosnia. (Continued on page 7)

Most appear to have secured what they sought from Amman summit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — A stocktaking after last week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit indicates that Jordan has largely achieved most of its objectives from the gathering, in its role as a host of the event as well as a key player in regional economic development. Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians — the three other "core parties" in the Middle East along with Jordan — also appeared to have secured what they were aiming from the summit. Judging from public comments by American officials, the U.S., the main force behind the summit and the ideas propagated and discussed there in terms of Arab-Israeli economic cooperation and international help for projects in the region that would reflect on people's daily lives, was also satisfied that the conference helped advance the regional economic effort. The Europeans, grouped under the 15-nation European Union, kept their distance on a proposal to set up a Middle East development bank, but made up for the deliberate shortcoming by assuming active roles on the private sector level. Apart from announcing the establishment of the Middle East development bank, a regional business council and a regional tourism board — meaning a major step in institutionalizing regional cooperation — the summit also decided to set up the general secretariat of the Regional Economic Cooperation Working Group (REDWG), one of the bodies stemming from the multilateral phase of the four-year-old Middle East peace process, in Amman. It was not immediately known where the regional tourism and business councils will be housed, but, according to Jordanian officials, the Kingdom will strive to house at least one of them. The officials say that setting up the REDWG secretariat was no more than a formality since such a group already existed in Amman, one of the leading players in the multilateral working groups.

Also announced on the fringes of the summit was that Jordan had secured important international credit ratings that would allow the Kingdom to raise capital from a hitherto closed source — international pension funds and insurance companies which, by internal statutes, are banned from lending to countries which do have enjoyed high credit ratings. In general, most of the publicly signed agreements were prepared in advance but the focus on the accords gave the three-day conference an additional element of significance. Such accords involved loan agreements for over \$300 million signed by Jordan with Japan and the World Bank — to help boost the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves — and with the French government to help expand the transport sector. Also significant was the British announcement that the London government was opening a guaranteed export credit line to Jordan after a hiatus of six years. The Jordanian Muasher group and the international hotel chain Hilton signed

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U.S. to maintain pressure on Libya

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House has vowed to keep the heat on Libya to hand over suspects in the Lockerbie bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, as the victims' relatives denounced previous U.S. efforts as "feeble."

President Bill Clinton was to attend the ceremony Friday at the Arlington National Cemetery just outside the capital where the names of the 270 victims of the 1988 crash have been engraved on a granite monument donated by Scotland.

"He will talk about the ways in which we can keep the pressure up... even seek ways to tighten the pressure" on Tripoli, said White House spokesman Michael McCurry.

Despite U.N. sanctions, Libya has steadfastly refused to surrender the two Libyan nationals indicted in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 to be tried in the United States or Britain.

Mr. McCurry also said the administration would work to "keep others from trying to lessen the pressure."

He declined to name any particular countries, saying only "there have been from time to time within the Security Council some efforts to relax some of the sanctions."

But the spokesman also acknowledged the obstacles the United States faces in its campaign against Libya.

"There are, no doubt, additional things that could be done, but we have to work those issues diplomatically and gain support from others for that type of pressure to be effective," he said.

Such constraints have frustrated relatives of victims, who called on the U.S. government Thursday to make public all evidence it has against the two Libyans.

"After four years of failed efforts to extradite the Libyan terrorists, it is sadly apparent that this case will never be heard in a court of law," said Aphrodite Tsairis.

In a letter to President Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno, Mr. Tsairis and other members of a relatives' group called "Terrorism Watch: Pan Am Flight 103" demanded that the Justice Department release all its evidence against the Li-

byans.

"If the United Nations' and the United States' efforts are too feeble and half-hearted to bring the weight of the law against these cold-blooded murderers, we can at least bring the weight of moral shame against them and their protector, Colonel (Muammar) Qadhafi," said Burt Ammerman, another member of the group.

Members of the Terrorism Watch group said they would not attend Friday's dedication.

"We cannot be there with the president until the administration brings about the justice we speak of today," said Mr. Tsairis.

"We are aware that this is a very emotional time for the families," Mr. McCurry told a questioner. "The memorial itself is being dedicated in the spirit of trying to heal the wounds" of what Mr. McCurry termed a "tragic and outrageous attack upon civilians."

He noted that the cairn "is being offered as a gift from the people of Scotland. The president has been encouraged to participate by some of the family members, and he believes it is very right and proper to do so."

Mr. McCurry said the administration understands the dissatisfaction of families at the fact that two Libyans under indictment "have not been brought to justice, and indeed it is the view of the United States government that we must do everything that is possible to bring those suspects to justice. We have repeatedly pressed that issue, we have insisted that Libya not be granted any relief from the sanctions. Libya now faces until it is in complete compliance with the relevant (United Nations) Security Council resolutions. That will be our posture until we are satisfied that justice has been done."

Asked if he was saying that "no more could be done at present," Mr. McCurry answered sharply, "That is not correct. We are always pressing to find ways in which we can bring additional pressure on the government of Libya to release the two suspects for trial in either Scotland or the United States as required by U.N. Security Council resolutions."

IJC voices alarm over Tunisia rights activists

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has said that it is alarmed by a series of repressive measures taken by the Tunisian government against human rights activists and lawyers.

On Oct. 29, 1995, Mr. Cherif-Chemmar and Mrs. Cherif-Chemmar were prevented from leaving Tunisia when they had their passports confiscated by a security officer at Tunis airport. They were on their way to attend a conference organised by the Mediterranean Centre for Human Rights in Malta. The security officer allegedly informed them that he had been instructed to prevent their departure and confiscate their passports, the ICJ said. No written justification for the confiscation was given to them.

The ICJ has written to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of Tunisia, asking that the travel ban on Mr. Cherif-Chemmar and Mrs. Cherif-Chemmar be lifted and their passports returned to them.

On Oct. 30, 1995 Mrs. Cherif-Chemmar was informed by the Bâtonnier of Tunis that she will be investigated by a judge on suspicion of "leaking secrets" related to the case of Mr. Mohamed Maouada, president of the opposition party Mouvement des Democraties Socialistes (MDS), who is currently held on charges of illegal contacts with Libya. Mrs. Cherif-Chemmar is a member of the defence team for Mr. Maouada.

Both Mr. Cherif-Chemmar and Mrs. Cherif-Chemmar were active in a local and international campaign for the release of Mr. Maouada. The crux of the campaign was an assertion by Mr. Cherif-Chemmar and others that Mr. Maouada was arrested for purely political reasons. Mr. Maouada was detained on Oct. 9, a day after his party made public a letter it had sent to the Tunisian president in which it discussed democratic changes in Tunisia.



CELEBRATIONS IN JENIN: Israeli soldiers keep order as West Bank residents celebrate the arrival of some 20 Palestinian officers in Jenin to replace Israeli forces in the West Bank town on Thursday. Some 1,000 Palestinian police will be deployed in Jenin by mid-November. Jenin is the first Palestinian town to be handed over to the Palestinian National Authority under the Sept. 28 accord signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) (AFP photo)

Washington urges Congress to untangle PNA aid

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department deputy spokesman Glyn Davies urged Congress Wednesday to act on the administration's proposal for a short-term extension of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act "as quickly as possible."

"The lapse of the authority limits our ability to provide assistance to the Palestinians," he said. "The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) office, significantly, would also be required to close."

"The peace process as a whole has been above politics in the past. We don't believe that the legislation so critical to the Middle East peace process should be held hostage to disagreements over how the foreign policy bureaucracy of the U.S. should be organised. Such a linkage is inappropriate at best because the lapse of the authority inhibits our ability to facilitate the peace process."

Senate majority leader Bob Dole announced Oct. 31 that Senator Jesse Helms, chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, was blocking an administration request for a short-term extension, which would have been the fourth this year.

Mr. Helms thereby added Palestinian aid to the ambassadorial nominations and two major arms control treaties he is holding up because Democrats have blocked a Senate vote on his plan to eliminate three foreign policy agencies and consolidate them into the State Department.

The Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPFA), an important tool of U.S. diplomacy, expired at midnight Oct. 31 due to a parliamentary manoeuvre in the Senate having nothing to do with the Middle East.

Mr. Helms, with the support of Mr. Dole, blocked the Senate from voting to temporarily extend MEPFA by objecting to an "unanimous consent request" required to bring up the legislation. Mr. Dole, in remarks on the Senate floor, said Mr. Helms would continue to object until the administration agreed to let his bill on reorganising the State Department come to a floor vote.

The MEPFA legislation allows President Clinton to waive certain provisions of U.S. law concerning the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), permits U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority, and allows a PLO office to operate in the United States.

The Foreign Operations Appropriations Committee

Report provides for an 18-month extension of MEPFA, but it is not likely to be enacted soon, Mr. Dole said. The expired bill would have allowed for a temporary extension until the conference report was approved.

Mr. Dole said Secretary of State Warren Christopher has voiced concern that a delay in extending the act could be read as lack of support for the Middle East peace process. Mr. Dole made clear that the Senate supports the Middle East peace process and has gone on record three times this year — June 23, Aug. 11, and Sept. 29 — to temporarily extend MEPFA.

Mr. Dole blamed the administration for much of what happened Oct. 31. He pointed out that it was only the day before the legislation was due to expire that the administration faxed to his office a written request for a short-term extension. The administration "refuses to deal responsibly with Congress," Mr. Dole said.

The State Department, Mr. Dole pointed out, wanted Mr. Helms to lift his objection to proceeding with MEPFA "despite its almost total lack of effort over the last 32 days" to deal with Mr. Helms. Mr. Dole said the administration "has refused to provide information to the Congress about cost savings" to be derived from a reorganisation of the foreign affairs agencies.

Mr. Dole said Mr. Helms "is completely within his rights to object to any unanimous consent agreement... Contrary to some of the statements by the administration, Senator Helms is not insisting on getting his own way." What he is insisting on is that the will of the Senate majority be heard and that the Senate simply have a chance to vote on whether to save money by reorganising our international affairs agencies.

Democrats objected strongly to Mr. Helms' action. Senate minority leader Thomas Daschle said Nov. 1 that tying the State Department reorganisation bill to the Middle East peace agreement "is the worst piece of leverage. It ought not be used in this manner. It's wrong. It's harmful. And it's a real threat to our long-term national best interest as well as to the ability that we have to play the constructive role (in the Middle East) we've been now playing for some time."

Islamic Jihad became known in the 1980s for its attacks on Israeli targets and was among the early proponents of suicide bombings — a tactic adopted with devastating effect in the past two years to disrupt the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy talks.

He taught economics in Gaza and left in the mid-1980s, apparently taking up studies in Egypt and America. He went to Britain in 1986 and received his doctorate in economics at Durham University in 1991.

He is believed to have headed Islamic Jihad's fundraising operations in Britain. He is also thought to have been involved in militant Islamic activities in Florida.

A father of three, he is said to have spent recent years living in Syria, which shelters several groups opposed to the peace process, and Syrian-dominated Lebanon. Israel has not admitted assassinating Mr. Shaqaqi, but government ministers and opposition leaders welcomed his death.

Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, worried that revenge attacks could upset Israel's planned withdrawal from cities in the West Bank, urged Islamic Jihad to show restraint and said it would take measures to prevent attacks being staged from autonomous areas.

Palestinian police have already jailed Mr. Shaqaqi's brother, Omar, for 25 years for inciting Palestinians to commit suicide attacks against Israelis.

But as part of Mr. Arafat's carrot-and-stick policy towards Islamic radicals, a Palestinian Authority "minister," Zakaria Al Agha, was among the dozen people and groups who paid for newspaper advertisements expressing condolences for the death of Mr. Shaqaqi.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Arabia warns Haj pilgrims

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia warned Haj pilgrims on Friday it would punish and turn back anyone carrying political or ideological publications. "Books, photographs, leaflets or any publications with political, propaganda or ideological content... are strictly prohibited" during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca holy sites, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said, quoting interior ministry. "Violators will be punished and turned back," the statement said. The next pilgrimage season is in June. Saudi authorities have in the past banned political publications during the Haj, saying that according to Islam the pilgrimage should be dedicated solely to God. Iranian officials have vowed to hold rallies during the Haj despite warnings by Saudi Arabia not to indulge in political activities.

Bangladesh's ambassador in Ankara dies

ANKARA (AFP) — Bangladesh's ambassador to Turkey, Mahmud Ul-Hassan, has died of a heart disease, the Bangladesh embassy here said Friday. He was 52. An embassy spokeswoman said the ambassador died in an Ankara hospital Thursday due to post-surgical complications after he underwent a heart operation in October. Hassan's body was to be sent home to Bangladesh at the weekend, she said.

Biran in disguise discovers Ramallah by night

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Israeli army commander General Ilan Biran has sneaked into the West Bank town of Ramallah by night disguised as an old Palestinian, military sources said. "I simply wanted to find out about the nocturnal habits of the Palestinians," said Gen. Biran, in charge of the West Bank and central Israel. He spent several hours strolling past cafes and restaurants dressed in the traditional Arab robes, the galabiyah, after having been carefully made up by special army makeup artists. Other elite troops followed him at a cautious distance also in disguise. "The Palestinians enjoy the good life and party until late into the night," Gen. Biran said. Ramallah is one of the six Palestinian towns on the West Bank due to be evacuated by the Israeli army by the end of the year under the Sept. 28 autonomy accord to allow elections to self-rule council to take place. Soldiers will remain in Hebron under special arrangements to protect 400 settlers living amid 120,000 Palestinians.

Turkish cultural club torched in Germany

COLOGNE, Germany (R) — Vandals torched a Turkish cultural club in the western German city of Duisburg early on Friday, but police said it was unclear whether the arson was politically motivated. Dozens of Turkish properties in Germany have been set on fire this year in a string of arson attacks that authorities blame primarily on separatist Kurdish extremists. A preliminary investigation found someone had smashed a window in the club and set a window blind on fire. Another firebomb was found inside the club. No one was injured, a police spokesman said. Residents in the three-storey apartment building where the club is located reported the early-morning fire. Three people were seen running away, but no arrests were reported.

OBITUARY

With deep sorrow and regret we announce the sudden and untimely death of

Eng. Moris L. Sawalha

Moris Sawalha was well known, admired and highly respected by the Jordanian business community and the international community here and overseas.

His presence will be greatly missed by his family, his many friends, colleagues and all who knew him.

Funeral will take place in Madaba on Sunday, the 5th of Nov. at 3:00 p.m. at the Latin Community Church.

Condolences will be accepted on Nov. 5th & 6th in Madaba. 7th, 8th & 9th Nov. at his home in Amman. Tel. No. 811051

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Back to the Future
14:30 Harry and the Hendersons
15:00 Blue Heelers
15:45 Only in Hollywood
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme Cotte Minu
17:30 Doc. — Omnicisions
18:00 Drama Series — C'Est Mon Histoire
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Major Dad
20:00 The First Wives Club
20:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:25 Film: "Lone Dottie"
23:59 L'Histoire Secrete Du Petrole

PRAYER TIMES

04:31 Fajr
05:50 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19 Dhuhr
14:22 Asr
16:48 Maghrib
18:07 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sveithel, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637400.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623551.

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel.
623526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Com-
munity Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491.
The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-
ment of Meteorology.

Gradual rise in temperatures is
expected with clouds appearing at
different altitudes and winds south-
westerly moderate to active. In
Agaba, winds will be northerly
moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 12 / 23

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Agaba | | 17 / 30 |
| Decors | | 10 / 26 |
| Jordan Valley | | 17 / 30 |
| Yesterday's high temperatures. | | |
| Amman 21, Agaba 28 Humidity | | |
| readings: Amman 40 per cent. | | |
| Agaba 28 per cent. | | |
| USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS | | |
| NIGHT DUTY | | |
| AMMAN: | | |
| Dr. Rami Mzawi | 894788 | |
| Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub | 779797 | |
| Dr. Awni Al Hawandeh | 832350 | |
| Dr. Khalil Al Tushiq | 775253 | |
| Firas pharmacy | 661912 | |
| Ferdows pharmacy | 778336 | |
| Al Asma pharmacy | 637055 | |
| Nairoby pharmacy | 623672 | |
| Al Salam pharmacy | 636730 | |
| Yacoub pharmacy | 644945 | |
| Shamsi's pharmacy | 637460 | |
| Najib pharmacy | 847632 | |
| JERICO: | | |
| Dr. Ahmad Qanu | (-) | |
| Alquds pharmacy | (-) | |
| ZARQA: | | |
| Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashneh | 983023 | |
| EMERGENCIES | | |
| Food Control Centre | | 637111 |
| Civil Defence Department | | 611111 |
| Rescue | | 630341 |
| Civil Defence Emergency | | 199 |
| Rescue Police | | 192, 52111, 637777 |
| Fire Brigade | | 617101 |
| Blood Bank | | 775121 |
| Highway Police | | 843402 |
| Traffic Police | | 6672779 |
| Public Security Department | | 896190 |
| Hotel Complaints | | 603900 |
| Price Complaints | | 661176 |
| Water and Sewerage | | |
| Complaints | | 897467 |
| Amman Municipality | | |
| Complaints | | 787111 |
| Telephone Information | | |
| (Directory assistance) | | 121 |
| Overseas Calls | | 010230 |
| Central Amman Telephone | | |
| Repairs | | 623101 |
| Abdali Telephone Repairs | | 661101 |
| Jordan Television | | 771111 |
| Radio Jordan | | 774111 |
| Water Authority | | 660100 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | | 815615 |
| Electric Power | | |
| Complaints | | 636381 |
| RJ Flight Information | | 08-53200 |
| Queen Alia Intl. Airport | | 08-53200 |
| HOSPITALS | | |
| AMMAN: | | |
| Hussein Medical Centre | 813813/32 | |
| Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn | 6442816 | |
| Ajlith Maternity, J. Amn. | | |
| 642441/2 | | |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 642362 | |
| Malha, J. Amman | 636140 | |
| Palestine, Shmeisani | 607071 | |
| Shmeisani Hospital | 669131 | |
| Al-Musabbir Hospital | 845845 | |
| The Islamic, Abdali | 66612707 | |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali | 6641646 | |
| Italian, Al-Muhajireen | 777101/3 | |
| Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh | 775111/26 | |
| Army, Marka | 89161175 | |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 60224050 | |
| Amal Hospital | 674155 | |
| The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery | 865199 | |
| ZARQA: | | |
| Zarqa Govt. Hospital | (09)983323 | |
| Zarqa National Hospital | | |
| Jbn Sina Hospital | (09)900560 | |
| Al Hikma Modern Hospital | (09)909090 | |
| JERICO: | | |
| Prince Basmal Hospital | (02)255555 | |
| Green Catholic Hospital | (02)272225 | |
| Al Nafes Hospital | (02)247100 | |
| AQABA: | | |
| Princess Haya Hospital | (03)314111 | |
| FOR THE TRAVELLER | | |
| QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | | |
| This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In- ternational Airport Tel. (09)5200- 5, where it should always be ver- ified. | | |
| ARRIVALS | | |
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) | | |
| Flights | | |
| (Terminal 1) | | |
| 06:00 | Aden (RJ) | |
| 06:00 | Jakarta, Singapore (RJ) | |
| 06:00 | Damascus (RJ) | |
| 06:00 | Agaba (RJ) | |
| 06:30 | New Delhi (RJ) | |
| 06:55 | Karachi, Dubai (RJ) | |
| 06:55 | Beirut (RJ) | |
| 06:55 | Colombo (RJ) | |
| 06:55 | New York, Amsterdam (RJ) | |
| 06:55 | Cairo (RJ) | |
| 06:55 | London, Berlin (RJ) | |
| 06:55 | Vienna (RJ) | |
| 06:55 | Paris (add) (RJ) | |
| Other Flights (Terminal 2) | | |
| 12:40 | Bahrain, Doha (GF) | |
| 14:20 | Rome (AZ) | |
| DEPARTURES | | |
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) | | |
| Flights | | |
| (Terminal 1) | | |
| 06:25 | Beirut (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Agaba (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Agaba, Paris (add) (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Vienna (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Amsterdam, New York (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Geneva, Madrid (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Agaba, Brussels (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | London (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Paris (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Cairo (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Lamaca (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Bahrain, Doha (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) | |
| 06:25 | Jeddah (RJ) | |
| Other Flights (Terminal 2) | | |
| 07:45 | Beirut (ME) | |
| 13:30 | Bahrain, Sharjah (GF) | |
| 15:20 | Rome (AZ) | |
| 15:50 | Vienna (OS) | |
| 19:15 | Dubai (EK) | |
| 22:25 | Lamaca (CY) | |
| 22:25 | Cairo (MS) | |
| 22:40 | Damascus, Paris (AF) | |
| 06:25 | Amsterdam (KL) | |
| MARKET PRICES | | |
| Upper/lower prices in ffs per kg. | | |
| Apple | | 700 / 500 |
| Banana | | 680 |
| Banana (Mukammal) | | 620 |
| Cabbage | | 180 / 100 |
| Carrot | | 400 |

pilgrims on one carrying photographs, propaganda or during the official Saudi or ministry. June. Saudi publications Islam the nian officials site warnings activities.

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AWAY TRAIN

3:00 a.m. every Monday 3:00 p.m. every Monday 7:30 a.m. every Sunday 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

T PRICES

ice in lbs per kg

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| 100 | 600 |
| 100 | 650 |
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| 100 | 1100 |
| 100 | 1150 |
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| 100 | 1600 |
| 100 | 1650 |
| 100 | 1700 |
| 100 | 1750 |
| 100 | 1800 |
| 100 | 1850 |
| 100 | 1900 |
| 100 | 1950 |
| 100 | 2000 |

Home News

King condolences Suwelmin family

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan Friday offered their condolences to the family of Mohammad Awad Suwelmin, 37, Manager of Inventory at the Royal Court, who died with his mother and son on Thursday in a road accident on the Yajouz Highway.

A police official told the Jordan Times Friday that the accident occurred at Muthalah Al Koum when Mr. Suwelmin's vehicle slid and collided with an oncoming vehicle from the other direction. Rain that day caused slippery roads and hazardous driving conditions.

Mr. Suwelmin, his mother Faliha, 65, and his 22-year

old son Awad were killed on impact, the police official said adding that the driver of the other vehicle survived the crash and was listed in fair condition.

King Hussein delegated Munir Durah, secretary general of the Royal Court, Prince Mohammad delegated his office director and Prince Hassan delegated Abdullah Kanan, the assistant director of the Crown Prince's office, to pay condolences to the Suwelmin family on their behalf, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Friday.

Meanwhile, road accidents claimed the lives of four other persons and caused injury to six more in four separate road accidents in different parts in the Kingdom, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

In Hashimi Shamali area,

68-year-old Ismael Ayoub Kisswani was killed Thursday after the trailer he was driving rolled over near the Jordan Electricity Authority, the reports said, died instantly, the report added.

In Irbid, a 60-year-old man, identified by the CDD as Khairo Abdullah, was also killed Thursday after the car he was driving lost control.

Also on Thursday in Mafraq, two people were killed and one was injured in a road collision near Muthalah Djeinieh, the reports said.

A police official told the Jordan Times Friday that the accident which involved a trailer and a pickup was caused by slippery road conditions.

The deceased, both Saudi Arabians, were identified by the authorities as Rashid Sroudi and Walid Fayad.

Queen leaves on a working visit to South Africa, Swaziland

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday left on a working visit to South Africa and Swaziland where she was to join President Nelson Mandela and King Mswati III of Swaziland for the annual meeting of the United World Colleges (UWC) International Council, a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor and President Mandela will officially assume their presidencies of the UWC and of the UWC International Council respectively, the statement said.



According to the statement, His Majesty King Hussein sent a message with Queen Noor to President Mandela and to King Mswati III.

The UWC is an international educational programme for young people between the ages of 16 and 19, who are chosen on merit regardless of race, creed, colour, background or financial ability, and the majority are awarded scholarships.

It consists of nine colleges situated in Swaziland, Wales, Canada, Singapore, the United States, Italy, Venezuela, Hong Kong and Norway, and currently enrolls 3,200 students from more than 100 countries.

Since 1984, 28 Jordanian students have been sent on scholarships to the various UWC colleges.

Queen Noor expressed her hope that many more

students from the region will benefit from the opportunity to pursue an international education at the UWCs in the future, the statement said.

Survey of Russeifeh reveals social, economic and environmental ills

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — A comprehensive field study conducted recently in Russeifeh has concluded that the area suffers from social, economic, construction and environmental problems.

The survey, which was carried out by 38 researchers from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) said 20 per cent of the 200,000 residents of Russeifeh area live below the poverty line, adding that unemployment in the area is 25 per cent, as compared to the national average of 18.8.

The study found that the per capita income in Russeifeh is almost half of that for the country. The average family income for Russeifeh residents is JD 186.1 per month as compared to JD 333.9 nationwide, the study said.

It added that 53.3 per cent of a family's income is

spent on food, 16 per cent on water, electricity, education, and health, and 12.6 on clothes, in addition to 6.6 per cent on housing.

The study showed that the spending on housing is low because 74.5 of the residents own their own homes.

On education, the survey found that 8 per cent of children in Russeifeh drop out from school, as compared to 5.2 at the national level.

It added that the average number of students per school in Russeifeh is 844 as compared to 307 at the national level.

The study found that 84 per cent of the population complain of rodents and insect problems, 74 per cent from offensive odours from the industrial waste of nearby factories, and that 17 per cent from air-pollution related problems and diseases.

The study said that 68.3 per cent of the Russeifeh population is under 25

years of age.

With regard to health care services, the study said there is a shortage of health centres, adding that the number of citizens per each health centre is 40,000, as compared to 12,248 persons per centre at the national level. On the sanitary services, the study found that 58 per cent of the houses are connected to the national sewerage network while 37.5 per cent are still using percolation pits.

The study said 98.5 per cent of the houses are connected to water and electricity services.

It said that 53.9 per cent of Russeifeh residents live in homes with an area of 100-square-metres, and that 24.1 live in homes with areas ranging between 101 and 150-square-metres.

The survey found that 32.8 per cent of the families have telephones, adding that there are a total of 5000 telephone lines in the area.

The study, which was

financed by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPSC), stressed the need for improving the living standards of Russeifeh residents through the establishment of small but labour-intensive industries which will help increase family income and ease unemployment.

The study recommended the establishment of small, environment-friendly industries and housing projects for people with limited income. It also recommended the creation of national parks.

The study said 60 per cent of the Russeifeh residents called for establishing parks and recreational facilities, 38 per cent called for establishing sports facilities and 25 per cent called for establishing housing estates and handicrafts areas.

The survey said peoples' demands focused on the need to provide transportation, telecommunications,

health and educational services, in addition to establishing branches for the various government departments. They also demanded that the government address the environmental pollution problem, according to the study.

Commenting on the survey findings, Russeifeh Mayor Mousa Al Sa'd said the municipality's budget of JD 1.7 million is small, adding that 60 per cent of this budget goes to pay the salaries 800 municipality staff persons.

He said the municipality is in debt to JD 1.4 million, and this situation hinders the municipality's ability to provide accepted standards of services to its residents. Mr. Al Sa'd called on the government to set up investment projects to help ease the unemployment problem.

Jordan plans to hold 2 international trade fairs

AMMAN (Petra) — About 35 Arab and foreign institutions and business firms will take part in two trade fairs to be organised in Amman on Monday, according to Bashir Najjar representative of a local Jordanian institution organising the fairs.

Mr. Najjar said one fair will feature construction material and equipment and the other will display personal and property safety and protection equipment and services.

Taking part in the four-day event are institutions and companies from Turkey, Germany, Russia,

Saudi Arabia, Italy and Jordan, according to Mr. Najjar.

The fairs will be held at the International Fair Centre at Marj al Hamam district in western Amman, he said.

This is the first time that international institutions will take part in such fairs in Jordan, Mr. Najjar said.

He said invitations to the fairs went out to 6,000 visitors from around the world to.

At least 100 Arab and non-Arab business people are expected to participate in the coming event, according to Mr. Najjar.

Delegation heads for Euro-Arab dialogue forum in Netherlands

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian delegation will participate in the Sixth Euro-Arab Dialogue forum entitled "The Quality of Education—Cooperation and Exchange between Europe and the Middle East," to be held in the Netherlands Sunday.

The European Arab dialogue, organised and hosted by the Hague-based Lutfia Kabbani Foundation, aims at promoting mutual cultural understanding between Europe and the Middle East which will lead to improved economic conditions, a foundation statement said.

The aim of the sixth conference, which follows preparatory Euro-Arab education exchanges held last May, is to draw up recommendations and specific

policies to be presented by the Lutfia Kabbani Foundation, to the Barcelona Summit on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation.

The four closed workshops in which 100 European and Arab educators and specialists will address the issues of information exchange such as distance education and new information technology, vocational training and the role of the private sector in financing them, higher education, research and development, cross-cultural differences, language barriers and how to surmount existing barriers.

Previous dialogue fora have dealt with information and misinformation in Euro-Arab relations; water and environment; and the Mediterranean, which focused on the theme of the

challenge of cooperation for Europe and the Arab World.

The Jordanian delegation participating in the workshops include Thabit Taher, former minister of energy and mineral resources, Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, former minister of labour, Victor Billeh, advisor on education to HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Munther Masri, president of the National Centre for Human Resources Development, In'am Mufti, advisor on social development to Her Majesty Queen Noor, and As'ad Abdul Rahman, director of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

Other Arab countries participating in this forum are Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco.

'Rise in temperatures expected'

Amman (J.T.) — A rise in temperature is expected Saturday and Sunday, up to 24°C and 26°C, according to Meteorology Department sources. The sources said a warm air mass preceding a low air pressure, centred over West Greece, is the cause for the change in climate. They expected rain showers in the northern and central parts of Jordan and a drop in temperatures on Tuesday and Wednesday, to a low of 18°C.

Participants to UN World Conference on Women debate relevance of plan of action

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three Jordanian participants to UN Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in Sept. do not believe that the plan of action stemming from the meeting will improve women's conditions in the Third World so long as implementing the plan depends on the "good will" and the "seriousness" of the participating governments.

In a seminar held last Thursday and entitled "Jordanian impressions: After the Beijing conference," Khairy Mansour, a journalist and participant at the Beijing meeting stressed that the task of implementing the meeting's plan of action relies on the efforts of national non-governmental organisations

(NGO), which, in the Third World, he added, totally depend on government funding.

"The governments of Third World countries have more authority in converting the ideas of the conference into reality, but they are not obliged to do so," Mr. Mansour said.

Asma Khader, president of the Jordanian Women's Union and another participant at the World Conference on Women, said there should be genuine efforts to translate the plan of action, the decisions and priorities of the conference into reality.

"Government commitments to finance the plan are essential, but so far I can only see 'intentions,'" she said. Ms. Khader said she felt that Jordan's own preparations for the conference were too hurried and

thus superficial.

Ms. Khader explained that the adoption by governments of the plan of action was not compulsory because it took into consideration traditions, customs and cultural heritage of the different participating countries.

"Using flexible and non-binding terminology, the conference took us many steps backwards," she said.

Naval Fa'uri, the first woman in the shura council of the Islamic Action Front, disagreed saying that on the contrary, the international plan of action was originally based on Western culture and was void of any regard to other cultures, religions and beliefs.

"We made sure that the Beijing international plan of action would take into consideration the sovereignty and moral principles

of the different states," Ms. Fa'uri said.

The Islamic delegates to the Beijing meeting coordinated with the Vatican prior to the conference, and later with their other Arab counterparts at the meeting itself so that the plan of action would be sensitive to the principles, traditions and different faiths within the different cultures involved.

She said the plan of action criticised the early marriage of girls but provided no solutions.

Ms. Fa'uri said it also criticised governments for not providing medical care to women with sexually transmitted diseases, but did not recommend marriage as a solution to stemming such problems. She said the plan demanded the provision of care for single mothers, but did not take procedures to force "hus-

bands" (the male partner) to "shoulder responsibility." According to Mr. Mansour, who won this year's prize for the best political column from the Jordanian Writers Association, the Beijing conference found no solutions to the problems facing women because plans are already taking place for the fifth conference on women.

Transport ministry says Jordan, Bulgaria to implement cooperation measures

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Bulgaria have agreed on developing their cooperation in transportation of goods and passengers into their respective countries or in transit to a third country, according to a statement by the Ministry of Transport Friday.

Director of the ministry's transport department Abdullah Jbour said that a joint Jordanian-Bulgarian transport committee held a series of meetings in the Bulgarian capital Sofia last week to discuss various aspects of transport and problems impeding the process between the two countries.

Mr. Jbour, who led the Jordanian side to the meetings, said that the committee has recommended that Jordanian and Bulgarian governments offer fee and other tax exemptions to trucks carrying goods.

The committee suggested that Jordanian trucks heading for Bulgaria or passing in transit through that country be exempted from a \$340 road toll and that Bulgarian trucks be exempted from paying a JD 80 fee for the difference in the price of diesel oil (which is government-subsidised in Jordan) as well as a JD 75 loading charge.

Mr. Jbour said the com-

mittee has recommended that the two sides issue 300 permits each for trucks travelling in either direction and that the exemptions will only benefit those trucks which have such permits.

He said the measures will go into effect as of the beginning of 1996.

Furthermore, Mr. Jbour said the committee has studied a Bulgarian request for operating a regular overland passenger transportation route and has decided to discuss this issue in its next meeting to be held in Amman in the first half of 1996.

Al Watan party seeks clarification of 'nature' of Jordanian-Palestinian relationship

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Al Watan political party has issued a statement describing the government's decision to grant Palestinian citizens living in the occupied territories and holding Jordanian "green cards" five-year passports as a dangerous development and demanded that the government issue clarification of the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The Al Watan party bases its ideology on firm policies which among others include: faith in pan-Arab unity, the Palestine problem is the crux of the whole Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian people should be helped to cling to their national soil, action must be

taken aimed at implementing UN resolutions and enabling the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, said the statement.

Voicing the party's support for any measure that would facilitate the Palestinian people's travel and reduce their sufferings caused by the Israeli occupation, the statement said that the Jordanian people have a duty to back the Palestinian people's steadfastness in their struggle to liberate their homeland.

But it said that in view of the government's decision to grant the Palestinian citizens living in the occupied territories five-year pass-

ports, the party should clarify its stand vis-a-vis this question, which, it said, "has dangerous dimensions."

The party listed the following three stands in describing its position.

First: the party totally and outrightly rejects the idea of a substitute Palestinian state as such state would mean the evacuation of the Palestinian people from their homeland and solving the Palestine problem at the expense of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Second: Jordanian people's clinging to their own land and protecting the independent Jordanian state is a vital strategy that does not in any way conflict with

their backing for the Palestinian people's drive to liberate their land and establish their own independent state on Palestinian soil after which the two sides can formulate a model unity that could serve as a nucleus for the aspired pan-Arab unity.

Third: The government decision to grant Palestinian citizens five-year passports requires strategic clarification of the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship which must have institutional reference and be founded on constitutional grounds.

WHAT'S GOING ON

POETRY RECITAL

* Poetry recital by Zuleikha Abu Rishah at the Phoenix Gallery at 6:00 p.m.

BANI HAMIDA FALL EXHIBITION

* The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project presents "Winds of Change" its fall exhibition at the Jerusalem Insurance Company in Shmeisani (Tel. 658696)

EXHIBITIONS

* Metal works by Ammar Khammash at Liwan, off Wadi Saqra Street. Also displaying all kinds of handicrafts. (Tel. 699141)

* Paintings by Iraqi artist Salih Al Jumai'i at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Shakir Hassan Al Said at the French Cultural Centre.

Athens (OA)
London (OA)
3:00 a.m. every Monday
3:00 p.m. every Monday
7:30 a.m. every Sunday
5:00 p.m. every Sunday

700 500
100 600
100 650
100 700
100 750
100 800
100 850
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ANC is sure of victory in S. African local elections

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) was sure of an overwhelming victory in the country's first democratic local government polls, ANC officials said Friday.

"All the results as they are coming in...confirm the trends and throughout the country, it is an overwhelming victory for the ANC," party spokesman Carl Niehaus told Reuters.

Early results Friday showed the ANC had around 67 per cent of the total vote and controlled at least 133 councils country-wide.

Former President F.W. De Klerk's National Party (NP), which created apartheid in 1948 and dis-

mantled it nearly 50 years later, had 28 councils, and independent candidates 23.

Only about 28 per cent of the local authorities had reported results so far and counting was slow, officials said.

Mr. Niehaus said the ANC, which swept to power in last year's historic all-race parliamentary elections, had made gains in many traditional white areas and especially in the Western Cape province — controlled by Mr. De Klerk's NP after last year's polls.

"In the Western Cape it is a victory in the sense that there has been a substantial swing. We have gained almost every major town in the Western Cape," Mr.

Niehaus added.

In the Western Cape, the ANC had the majority in 12 councils. Independents had won seven and the National Party, six.

Election officials say more than 60 per cent of registered voters turned out to cast their ballots in the nine provinces where voting took place, which compared well with the 30-40 per cent turnout in previous whites-only municipal elections.

The Liberal Democratic Party, the rightist Freedom Front and the pro-apartheid Conservative Party scored small victories, but many white voters swung behind the NP in polls that focused on grassroots concerns such as soaring crime.

Despite the ANC's diffi-

culties in fulfilling its general election promises of a better life for all after apartheid, most voters from the black majority endorsed the party that has led the country's unity government for the past 18 months.

The local elections will change the face of South Africa, with black power coming for the first time to local authorities that for decades were controlled by the old apartheid order.

Mr. Mandela, who came to power in last year's general elections, did not vote. The elections in Cape Town, where he is registered, in Kwazulu-Natal province and a number of rural areas were delayed due to demarcation disputes and logistical troubles.

Tests start on Armenia reactor's generator

YEREVAN (AP) — Armenia has begun testing the generator of a controversial nuclear power reactor in hopes of bringing the plant on line this month, an official said Thursday.

"The turbo generator is going to be under examination for a few days, and by mid-November we plan to connect the reactor to the country's power grid," said Zhasmina Gevorgyan, a spokeswoman for the Energy Ministry.

Last week, the energy-starved former Soviet republic restarted the reactor at the Medzamor plant, which had been closed since 1989 in response to Armenia's devastating 1988 earthquake.

Officials said the nuclear plant would correct chronic electricity shortages and allow Armenia to use less natural gas, which it now must import.

The imports are expensive, and shipments are frequently disrupted as they

pass through neighbouring Georgia and Azerbaijan. The latter of which has been at war with Armenia for nearly eight years.

Armenian homes currently have about 45 minutes a day of electricity, and most factories are closed or operate at a fraction of capacity. Armenia's decision two years ago to reopen Medzamor triggered protests from Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, which say it is unsafe. The plant is 30 kilometres west of Yerevan, and 12 kilometres from Turkey.

Yerevan insists the reactor is reliable, and the International Atomic Energy Agency said last spring it was satisfied with safety levels at the plant, which was built in 1979.

By month's end, the reactor is expected to generate 400,000 kilowatts of electricity a day. The government hopes eventually to restart Medzamor's second reactor as well.

S.Korea to increase share of cost for U.S. troops

SEOUL (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry announced Friday that South Korea will increase its share of the cost of basing 37,000 American troops in this country by \$100 million over the next three years.

"They have agreed to increase the cost-sharing by 10 per cent a year over the next three years. We are proceeding in a spirit of true partnership," he told a press conference at the end of a five-day trip to Japan and South Korea.

South Korean Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho told reporters South Korea paid about \$300 million of the \$1 billion annual cost of maintaining American forces in the country. That would increase to about \$330 million next year and to \$400 million by 1998.

Mr. Perry and Mr. Lee stressed, following annual high-level security talks between the two countries, that it was essential to keep the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea to deter any threat of an attack by North Korea.

The North agreed last year to scrap nuclear power reactors capable of producing material for atomic weapons, but tensions remain high on the Korean

peninsula because of a continued military buildup by Pyongyang, the ministers said.

"North Korea has serious economic problems so that basic food and social services are not available in sufficient quantity for its people," Mr. Perry told reporters.

He said Pyongyang continued to spend one-quarter of its gross national product on military forces and kept two-thirds of its 1.1 million troops within 100 kilometres of the demilitarised zone between the two countries.

"They have a clear option open to them of shifting their allocations of funds. They have not chosen to do this," he said. "As a consequence, it gets worse and worse for the people in even more desperate conditions," Mr. Perry said.

He said that communist North Korea under leader Kim Jong-Il was so far keeping its part of the nuclear agreement, but that Washington and Seoul would keep close watch on the 10-year pact under which South Korea has agreed to help build new power reactors for the North.

New accident occurs in Azerbaijan metro

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Sparks flew and smoke filled a Baku subway car after its brakes overheated Thursday, just five days after a deadly underground fire that killed about 300 people, news agencies reported.

Passengers on the train were quickly evacuated, and there were no injuries, the ITAR-TASS and Interfax news agencies reported from the Azerbaijani capital, Baku.

The brake pads in one of the train cars overheated, filling the car with smoke, a subway official told ITAR-TASS. A similar incident took place Tuesday at another station in the Baku subway.

To prevent panic, people were ordered off the train at the Akademiyi Nauk

Station, the reports said. The station was later reopened.

Passengers on the Baku subway are still nervous following Saturday's fire on a train between two stations that claimed about 300 lives and injured some 200 other people. Many people died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Psychologists in Baku are reporting an increase in the number of patients, and the city ambulance service says the number of people suffering from heart attacks has shot up, the Turan News Agency reported.

One passenger felt giddy Thursday at one of the subway stations and fell on the rails. He was not seriously injured, but the incident disrupted service on one of the subway lines temporarily.

Conservatives lash out against Powell

WASHINGTON (R) — A coalition of conservative activists Thursday poured more vitriol on retired Gen. Colin Powell, apparently trying to scare him off running for the Republican presidential nomination.

The activists, most of them little known outside Washington political circles, said Gen. Powell was unacceptable to conservatives, either as a Republican presidential or vice presidential candidate.

"We know from his record that Gen. Powell is risk averse," said Paul Weyrich, chairman of the right-wing Free Congress political action committee. "He may not want to run after this press conference."

The news conference grouped anti-abortion activists, who objected to Gen. Powell's defence of abortion rights, with low tax campaigners, who said he had refused to sign their pledge not to raise taxes, and self-styled national security experts who picked holes in his record as a military leader.

Gen. Powell has also upset conservatives by declaring his support for some gun control measures and for affirmative action programmes to help minorities and women and because of his opposition to organised school prayer.

Mike Ferris, a failed candidate for lieutenant governor in Virginia, said Gen. Powell's political convictions were no better than those of Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Carol Long of the National Right To Life political action committee said tens of thousands of volunteers would campaign against Gen. Powell if he became a candidate.

"Our top priority will be to seek his defeat," she said. Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition which is possibly the most influential group on the right, sent

a note of regret that he could not be present at the news conference.

Gen. Powell, the first black to head the U.S. Armed Forces, went into seclusion two weeks ago after concluding a triumphal tour to promote his autobiography.

He has promised to announce by the end of this month whether he will seek the Republican presidential nomination.

The prospect of a Powell candidacy has riveted Republicans, dividing former political allies on the dominant conservative wing of the party. Polls show Gen. Powell would immediately become the main challenger to the frontrunner, Senate majority leader Bob Dole, for the nomination.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC poll published Thursday showed Sen. Dole with the support of 38 per cent of Republican voters, four points ahead of Gen. Powell. All of the other nine candidates were in single digits.

While some conservatives seek an ideologically pure presidential candidate, other prominent right-wingers have urged Gen. Powell, architect of the 1991 U.S. Gulf War victory over Iraq, to run.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle this week praised Gen. Powell as a man of integrity and substance.

"I want Colin Powell in the Republican Party," Mr. Quayle said. "I think it would be great for Republicans to have another prominent black American joining the Republican Party. We need to have more blacks in the Republican Party."

Party Chairman Haley Barbour said Gen. Powell was "very much in the mainstream of the Republicans."



MIAMI HOSTAGE TAKER KILLED: Members of the Miami Police Department take a closer look at the body of an unidentified man who was shot dead by police while holding 13 school kids hostage in a school bus in Miami Beach. The hostages were unharmed (AFP photo)

8 dead as ship sinks off Denmark

HIRTSHALS, Denmark (AFP) — All eight crew members of a German cargo ship were feared drowned after the vessel sank in heavy seas early Friday off the northern coast of Denmark, Danish Rescue Services said.

The body of one crew member was found shortly after daybreak by joint Danish and Norwegian rescue teams.

Officials said they feared

that the other seven had also perished when the vessel went down shortly after 4:00 a.m. (0322 GMT).

The crew of the ship, the Maria I, comprised two Germans and six Filipinos, officials said. The nationality of the person confirmed dead was not immediately known.

The vessel went down 40 nautical miles off the Danish coast in the Skagerrak Seaway which

connects the North Sea to the Baltic.

Danish Rescue Services said the German captain sent out an SOS at 4:15 a.m. (0315 GMT) saying the vessel was listing badly after its cargo had shifted in heavy winds and it was about to sink.

A second distress signal followed seven minutes later before all contact was lost with Antiguan-registered ship.

MQM stages new strike in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — The ethnic Mohajir Qawmi Movement (MQM) staged its 22nd strike this year in Pakistan's southern port of Karachi Friday.

Witnesses said the sprawling city of 12 million people was tense but calm on a strike day that coincided with the Muslim weekend. Security forces patrolled troubled eastern, western and central districts considered to be MQM strongholds.

The MQM called for a "day of protest and mourning" after Thursday's killing of 15 migrant workers by gunmen posing as policemen and the deaths of three MQM activists Wednesday. Sind province Chief

Minister Abdullah Shah accused the MQM of slaughtering the migrants from Punjab province, but said the government had no plans to ban the organisation.

"The MQM is responsible for bloodshed in Karachi," he told a news conference in Karachi, capital of Sind province.

"We have proof that this party is involved in terrorism. Whenever there is normalcy, such incidents occur because they want to prove their presence."

Asked if the government might outlaw the MQM, he said: "It is no solution to the crisis. In case of a ban, they will go underground, which could prove more dangerous."

ous." The MQM has denied involvement in the attack on the migrant workers, one of Karachi's bloodiest in recent months.

Six other people were killed in Karachi Thursday. Ethnic, political and sectarian violence has cost more than 1,650 lives in Pakistan's biggest city this year.

The MQM is fighting what it calls political and economic repression of Karachi's majority Mohajirs — Urdu-speakers who fled from India when the subcontinent was divided in 1947 and their descendants.

Super-typhoon devastates Philippines

MANILA (R) Super-typhoon Angela ripped through the Philippines' main island of Luzon Friday, virtually bringing the whole country to a halt, leaving a trail of destruction and killing up to 24 people.

The storm, the strongest to hit the disaster-prone Philippines in a decade, wrought 92 million pesos (\$3.5 million) in damage to infrastructure and crops, initial estimates by the Civil Defence office said.

Seven people were reported missing and 17 injured. "Saving lives and reducing damage is the main event at this particular time," President Fidel Ramos said as he took personal charge of relief efforts at the National Disaster Coordinating Council in Manila.

By late Friday afternoon, weather forecasters said Angela was more than 100 kilometres west of Manila, heading into the South China Sea with winds of up to 170 kph (106 mph). It had weakened significantly since crashing into the Bicol region at the southern end of Luzon late Thursday with winds of up to 270 kph (167 mph).

It hit Manila, the country's capital, with a population of some 8.5 million, just before noon (0400 GMT) Friday, toppling power lines along the way and blacking out almost the

whole island of Luzon, the country's industrial and commercial heartland.

"It's hard to give an estimate when we will be able to fully restore power due to the extent of damage," said Joe Zalderiaga, company spokesman of Manila Electric Co Mer.Ps, the country's biggest power distributor.

The company's entire network was blacked out, leaving millions all over Luzon in the dark or dependent on emergency generators.

General Roberto Lastimoso, chairman of the Bicol Disaster Council, told Reuters 10 people, including a three-year-old girl, were killed when heavy rains sent tonnes of volcanic debris thundering down the slopes of Mount Mayon volcano near Legazpi City, the region's main town.

"The whole of Legazpi is flooded," Gen. Lastimoso added. Rescue officials said 11 more people were killed in the nearby town of Naga, which was also inundated.

Two boys were reported to have drowned in different parts of Manila but reports could not immediately be confirmed.

One person died on Catanduanes Island, off the coast of Bicol, which was the first community to feel Angela's wrath. Some 15,000 flimsy wood and palm thatch homes were

destroyed and the island of 300,000 people was completely cut off for several hours.

Officials said more than 200,000 people, including 20,000 in Manila, had fled to safety in evacuation centres set up all over Luzon. The storm cut communications, crippling efforts to assess the extent of damage caused by Angela.

"We are still only receiving very sketchy reports from every province," a relief official in Legazpi said.

Angela is the fiercest storm to strike the Philippines since typhoon Nina killed 1,000 people in 1987.

It struck less than a week after typhoon Zack killed more than 160 people in the central Philippines and devastated rice and sugar crops. Traders said Angela, one of 20 typhoons on average that hit the Philippines every year, had destroyed hundreds of coconut trees in Bicol. Their reports sent vegetable oil prices rising in Europe and the United States.

Manila's financial markets were closed, all flights were grounded and the main business district of Makati became a virtual ghost town.

Philippine Airlines, the country's national carrier, said it expected flights to resume by late evening.

Report: Japanese hold back military know-how from U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japan is withholding important military know-how from the United States, and the U.S. government should reduce or eliminate political barriers to the flow of technology, said a report sent to Congress Thursday.

The report was issued by the National Research Council, a body created by

Congress to advise the government on science and technology.

"The time has passed when defence cooperation featuring primarily one-way transfers of technology from the United States to Japan could be justified," said the 126-page report of the council's defence task force.

Japanese industry has acquired significant military know-how and gained important footholds in aircraft and space technology, it said, but export-control policies of the Tokyo government have prevented the transfer of valuable technological advances.

Hummingbird is 'nature's strongman'

LONDON (R) — The hummingbird is the strongman of nature with muscle-power almost nine times greater than a human's, scientists reported. Working on the aerial equivalent of a treadmill, two U.S. Researchers found that "the power output by ruby-throated hummingbirds was remarkably high." Professor Robert Dudley and Dr Peng Chai of the University of Texas in Austin trained the birds to feed from a plastic tube where they pumped in heliox, a mixture of helium and oxygen used by deep-sea divers, to see how long they could sustain flight. The scientists, whose findings were reported in Nature magazine, discovered that the hummingbird's maximum power level was 133 watts per kilo of muscle compared to only 15 watts per kilo for humans. "Hummingbirds demonstrate considerable power reserves," they concluded after the tests.

Divine Brown starts jail term

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hollywood prostitute Divine Brown, who was caught having sex with British movie star Hugh Grant, has surrendered to the court to begin a 180-day prison sentence for parole violation. A court spokesman said Ms. Brown, 25, whose real name is Estella Marie Thompson, turned up at the Hollywood Municipal Court one day earlier than scheduled. After Grant's June 27 arrest on Sunset Boulevard, Ms. Brown was charged with lewd conduct for giving the actor oral sex in his car. The judge sentenced her to 180 days in jail on two unconnected parole violations relating to prostitution.

Mrs. Clinton to star in Brazil lingerie ad

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Hillary Clinton will be the unsuspecting star of a Brazilian lingerie advertisement. An advertising executive said a spread to be published in Brazilian magazines would feature a photograph of America's first lady inadvertently showing part of her panties beneath a tight skirt while chatting during a recent visit to Brazil.

Teenager builds bomb with internet instructions

VANCOUVER (R) — Canadian police have defused a potentially deadly bomb built by a teenager who gleaned the instructions from the Internet computer network. Police in the small community of Saanich, British Columbia, said they were called in by the boy's anxious mother and the unidentified 15-year-old turned over an explosive device made from petrol and gunpowder. Matchheads had been taped together for a wick, a police spokesman said. It took four hours for a bomb disposal crew to defuse it. "The kid said he learned how to make it from the Internet. This could have been very serious," the spokesman said.

2 men breach security at Major's home

LONDON (R) — Two men breached security at Prime Minister John Major's official residence and roamed freely through the building, British newspapers said. Justin Dunn, a reporter for the Daily Mirror, said he "gatedrashed" Mr. Major's 10 Downing Street home for 18 minutes with a builder who had worked there during the summer but failed to return his security pass.

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(R) — The bird is the strong one with muscle most nine times as a human's, scientists reported. Working at the equivalent of a two U.S. output by hummingbirds, Robert Dudley and his colleagues of the University of Texas reported the birds in a plastic tube pumped in a mixture of helium used by deep-sea fish to sustain flight, whose findings, reported in the journal, *Discovery*, show the hummingbird's maximum power is 133 watts per gram compared to 10 watts per gram for a human. Hummingbirds are considered "reptiles," they said.

e Brown
jail term

JELES (R) — A prostitute, who was having sex with a man, was sentenced to 180 days in jail for a misdemeanor. A woman, 57, whose name is Estrella Martinez, turned up at the Municipal Court earlier this month. After Grant, rest on Susan Ms. Brown with the judge oral sex. The judge sentenced her to 180 days in jail for a misdemeanor.

Clinton to
in Brazil
erie ad

NEIRO (R) — Clinton will be the star of a lingerie advertisement. An advertisement spread in Brazil would feature Clinton. Clinton would be the star of a lingerie advertisement. Clinton would be the star of a lingerie advertisement.

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VER (R) — Police have potentially dealt with a teenager who used the Internet to instruct a community of British Columbia. Police called in by anxious mother identified 15-year-old over an advertisement made in a gunpowder head had been for a week, a spokesman said. It was for a bomb to defuse it. He learned like it from the his could have serious," the said.

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(R) — Two men security at Prime Minister's office and roamed the building, a spokesman said. A reporter for the Mirror, said he saw a man in a blue suit and a woman in a white dress. They were seen in the summer to return his is.



DUST COLUMN IN SPACE: The Hubble space telescope photograph released by NASA shows the top of the longest gas and dust column in the Eagle Nebula, 7,000 light-years from Earth in the constellation Serpens. The column of cool interstellar hydrogen gas and dust are also incubators for new stars, scientists say. The longest column has been estimated to be one light-year long (AFP photo)

Canada premier comes under attack

OTTAWA (R) — Prime Minister Jean Chretien, once Canada's most popular modern leader, is coming under scathing attack from all sides for underestimating the strength of Quebec's threat to leave the country. Since the near-loss of Canada's largest province in a referendum Monday, the separatists have said they will hold him in parliament, the opposition Reform Party has ridiculed his political judgment, and a former prime minister has called on him to sack his advisers. The only relief for Mr. Chretien is that his bitter rival over the future of French-speaking Quebec, separatist leader Lucien Bouchard, announced Thursday that he still has not decided whether or not to carry on the fight. "I have some strong personal pressure to go back to private life to do a few things I would like to do," said Mr. Bouchard, 57, tears filling his eyes as he spoke of his American-born wife and two young sons. Mr. Bouchard will announce his decision later this month. He has come under strong pressure from separatist allies to take over the helm of the Quebec government

and launch a new bid for independence. Separatist Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau announced his resignation the day after the narrow referendum defeat. Shaken by how close Quebec came to secession, Mr. Chretien has now asked all Canadians to help keep it in the federation. "We have a collective responsibility to keep it together...and I need the help of everybody to do that," Mr. Chretien told businessmen in Toronto Wednesday night. He said Canada has had enough of interminable squabbles over Quebec. "As the prime minister of Canada I will make sure that we have political stability in this land," Mr. Chretien said. He even hinted at the possibility of leaving politics if Canada did not rally round his efforts. "For me, that's my last job...I will do whatever is needed to keep this country together and if you don't want me anymore, my wife will be happy," he said. But Mr. Chretien's appeal fell on deaf ears in some quarters. Instead of retreating in defeat, separatists pushed ahead. Mr. Bouchard said Thursday his Bloc

Quebecois party would stay in the national parliament in Ottawa, where they have hounded Mr. Chretien for two years. The leader of the western-based Reform Party, Preston Manning, accused Mr. Chretien of "stupidity" in misreading the separatist threat, and said the reforms Mr. Chretien has hastily endorsed to placate Quebec are wrong. "It is a strategy I submit to you which brought this country to the very brink of disaster," Mr. Manning said Thursday. Mr. Chretien intends to push through parliament language recognising Quebec as a "distinct society" for its French language and culture, and he has offered to give the province a constitutional veto. But many English-speaking Canadians instinctively bristle at giving Quebec any special treatment and conservative former Prime Minister Joe Clark joined the chorus against Mr. Chretien. "Mr. Chretien's settled view of this issue has been proven to be wrong," the *Globe and Mail* newspaper quoted Mr. Clark as saying. "He will have to find new advisers to help him."

Queen Elizabeth signs bill to compensate Maoris

WELLINGTON (R) — One of New Zealand's largest Maori tribes received an apology signed by Queen Elizabeth Friday, laying a long-standing grievance to rest in a ceremony hailed as historic by both whites and Maoris. The queen, who is New Zealand's head of state, signed a parliamentary bill which contains an apology by the government to the Tainui tribe based in the North Island's Waikato region for the military invasion of their lands in 1863. Buckingham Palace and government spokesmen have stressed, however, that it is not a personal apology by the queen. "The crown expresses its profound regret and apologies unreservedly for the loss of lives because of the hostilities arising from its invasion, and at the devastation of property and social life which resulted," the bill says. In this country, the term "the crown" refers to the New Zealand government. Maoris still view the queen as guarantor of their rights under the 1840 treaty of Waitangi, by which their warrior ancestors ceded sovereignty to Britain in return for "full, exclusive and undisturbed possession of their lands". "That's been a remarkably historic occasion and tremendously moving to have been at the signing of the Waitangi Bill," Prime Minister Jim Bolger told reporters. "It's a very fulsome apology, but given the history of the Waitangi people a fulsome apology was deserved," he said. The queen's signature had huge symbolic importance for Maoris because she rarely gives royal assent to New Zealand bills in person. Typically her representative, the governor-general, signs legislation. Mr. Bolger said the symbolism was more important than the signing. "It signals the resolution of a long-standing grievance and, as it were, putting forward the chance of a much better future. I felt a great sense of history in the room."

The signing was witnessed by a small gathering of tribal elders and cabinet ministers, including Dame Te Atairangiikaahu, the Maori queen, who also met privately with Queen Elizabeth. The peace process began 15 months ago when IRA guerrillas declared a ceasefire to a 25-year war against Britain, hoping to get Sinn Fein into talks on ending British rule of the province. The IRA says Britain's "arms-for-talks" proviso is a ploy to lure them into surrender, while Protestant gunmen say their weapons are for defence only. "Of course everybody recognises what is urgently required right now is a date for all-party talks if we are going to salvage this process," Mr. McGuinness told reporters before starting talks with British Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram. "Sinn Fein is now going back into talks with Michael Ancram to do everything in our power to salvage the peace process," he said on entering Belfast's Stormont Castle. It was the second meeting between the two in a week after a four-hour session Tuesday which Mr. McGuinness said had failed to resolve "major difficulties" over attempts to turn truces by the IRA and Protestant gunmen into lasting peace. On Thursday night Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said the peace process had reached a "defining moment" and blamed Britain's insistence on disarming his IRA guerrilla supporters.

Sri Lankan rebels fight back in north, kill villagers in east

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger rebels, fighting a ferocious rearguard action against a Sri Lanka army rolling over their northern stronghold, have again attacked Sinhalese villagers in the country's east, officials said Friday. A police officer in Monaragala district, where the attack occurred, told Reuters that rebels belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) backed to death five villagers and set ablaze their Kandahelagama hamlet Thursday night. "We may find more bodies as we go deeper into the jungle," the police officer said. It was the latest LTTE attack on civilians in the east, a manoeuvre diplomats believe is designed to deflect the army's concentration on the peninsula, where troops appear poised for a final thrust on the rebels' prized Jaffna City. Last month the rebels killed more than 100 mostly

Sinhalese men, women and children in a series of raids on isolated hamlets in the east. The LTTE also struck in the capital, blowing up the island's main oil depots. Schools across the country were closed from Thursday for the rest of the year over fears of further attacks by rebels. The rebels, fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east, appear to have withdrawn from Jaffna town but to be offering stiff resistance in surrounding areas where they have dug in. Government troops, massed at the gates of Jaffna, have begun clearing mines and booby-traps on the approaches to the town, but Colombo admits progress will be agonisingly slow. Diplomatic and aid agency sources said the LTTE was leaving second-level fighters behind to defend rear positions towards the northern out-

skirts of Jaffna as their main body of fighters withdrew. One source said the LTTE, which at one time looked like giving up the town without a fight, now appeared to be preparing to defend it strongly. "The situation changes from hour to hour," he said. The military estimates some 1,000 rebels have been killed in two weeks of fighting on the Jaffna peninsula during the current offensive. It says another 3,000 rebels have been wounded. The military puts its own losses at 221 killed and 536 wounded, a figure Western diplomats say may be higher. Western diplomats estimate the trained rebel forces to be more than 9,000. The fighting has forced tens of thousands of people to flee and seek refuge in the mainland across the peninsula. Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe has not said if a crowning moment of the offensive

would be the taking of Jaffna Town. He has said the army was just 4 1/2 kilometres from the Jaffna Town limits, but that troops would take their own time capturing the town, where the Tigers have run a virtual mini-state for nearly a decade. Military analysts dispute the strategic value of Jaffna town and diplomats speculate whether it is in fact a goal the military seeks at all. But President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said Wednesday during a state television broadcast that her troops would take the town despite rebel attempts to divert attention with attacks on Colombo and the east. She added: "This is the first time that a Sri Lankan government has attempted to take Jaffna." More than 50,000 people have died since the fighting started in 1983.

Russians defuse bomb in Chechen Presidential Palace

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian engineers came under fire while defusing a bomb in the Presidential Palace in downtown Grozny, a news agency said Thursday. Interfax News Agency said the 36-kilogramme device was on the first floor of the building in break-away republic's capital Wednesday. Snipers opened fire on the engineers while they were dismantling the bomb, but no one was wounded, Interfax said, quoting the Russian

military. The Presidential Palace was the centre of Chechen resistance early in the war, which began in December when Moscow sent 40,000 troops to quash the Caucasus Mountains republic's three-year independence bid. Russian artillery and airpower reduced it to a hulking ruin, but construction crew have been at work, trying to restore the building. Interfax did not say if they

were at work when the bomb was discovered. Several high-profile bomb attacks in the past months have seriously escalated tensions in Chechnya, especially one which seriously wounded the commander of Russian forces, Gen. Anatoly Romanov. Four weeks after the attack, Gen. Romanov remains in a coma. Meanwhile, Oleg Lobov, President Boris Yeltsin's top envoy to Chechnya, returned to Grozny from Moscow Thursday. Mr.

Lobov was thought to be the target of the bomb that injured Gen. Romanov. News agencies said Mr. Lobov met with Dokuzavayev, head of the Moscow-installed Chechen government, and with Gen. Anatoly Shkirko, the new commander of Russian troops. The war has dragged on for 11 months, killing thousands of people and creating tens of thousands of refugees.

Sinn Fein 'is trying' to salvage N. Ireland peace

BELFAST (R) — Sinn Fein, political arm of IRA guerrillas, said Friday that it was holding talks with Britain to try to rescue a faltering Northern Ireland peace process from collapse. Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's senior strategist, said the only way to save the peace process from months of deadlock was for Britain to call all-party talks and to end its insistence that the IRA first disarm. London demands that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and its Protestant loyalist foes surrender their weapons to win seats at all-party peace talks on a lasting Northern Ireland settlement. The peace process began 15 months ago when IRA guerrillas declared a ceasefire to a 25-year war against Britain, hoping to get Sinn Fein into talks on ending British rule of the province. The IRA says Britain's "arms-for-talks" proviso is a ploy to lure them into surrender, while Protestant gunmen say their weapons

are for defence only. "Of course everybody recognises what is urgently required right now is a date for all-party talks if we are going to salvage this process," Mr. McGuinness told reporters before starting talks with British Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram. "Sinn Fein is now going back into talks with Michael Ancram to do everything in our power to salvage the peace process," he said on entering Belfast's Stormont Castle. It was the second meeting between the two in a week after a four-hour session Tuesday which Mr. McGuinness said had failed to resolve "major difficulties" over attempts to turn truces by the IRA and Protestant gunmen into lasting peace. On Thursday night Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said the peace process had reached a "defining moment" and blamed Britain's insistence on disarming his IRA guerrilla supporters.

"The British precondition which has blocked the peace process has the potential to destroy it. It must be removed," a grim-faced Adams said after three hours of talks Thursday with Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, their longest meeting. He declined to confirm speculation that Sinn Fein would break off talks with Mr. Ancram Friday if London's response to Sinn Fein's proposals was negative. "If the response is negative we have nothing to talk about," said Mr. Adams. "But that is not to say we are not willing to talk or that we will be pulling out." Mr. Bruton described his talks with Mr. Adams as constructive, but acknowledged that there would have to be compromise on all sides before the peace process could emerge from limbo. A Sinn Fein walkout from the Belfast talks would not surprise Irish nationalists impatient at lack of progress since the Irish Republican

Army's ceasefire. Such a collapse would probably wreck prospects for an Anglo-Irish summit to unveil a fresh attempt to convene all-party peace talks and would also cast shadows over a visit this month by U.S. President Bill Clinton. Mr. Clinton has recognised Sinn Fein, invited Mr. Adams to the White House and given financial support to rebuilding Northern Ireland after a 25-year guerrilla war, but hopes for a lasting settlement have dwindled. He was hoping to crown U.S. peace achievements in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia by making his last foreign trip before his re-election campaign to the ancestral home of 40 million Irish Americans. Mr. Adams would not divulge the substance of proposals put to Britain by Sinn Fein and the moderate Irish nationalist SDLP group of John Hume, a member of the British and European parliaments.

U.S. defends plan to interview contenders for top NATO post

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Thursday defended its plan to interview contenders for NATO secretary general as a top candidate, Rued Lubbers, lunched with the U.S. secretary of state and dropped by the White House. "The United States is a leading power in NATO and the United States provides the backbone of NATO's military strength," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said at a briefing. "We have a direct and great interest in who becomes the next NATO secretary general." Dismissing media accounts citing unnamed European diplomats as critical of the U.S. plan, Burns said: "Some people are shocked that the United States would deign to break precedent and actually interview people for the position of NATO secretary general. I find their comments, unnamed people, unnamed French diplomats and other diplomats, to be rather bizarre," he said. Mr. Lubbers, the former prime minister of the Netherlands, lunched with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and stopped off at the Pentagon to see Deputy Defence Secretary John White. Later Mr. Lubbers visited the White House for a meeting with

National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. A similar round of visits was scheduled Friday for another top candidate for the job, former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen. He was to have breakfast with Mr. Christopher before going to the Pentagon and the White House. U.S. officials said very little about Thursday's meetings, to avoid providing any basis for comparison later between the two men. A White House official said Mr. Lake and Mr. Lubbers "discussed a wide variety of European security issues." The announcement by White House spokesman Mike McCurry Wednesday that U.S. officials planned to conduct "job interviews" for the vacant top NATO post raised eyebrows at NATO Headquarters in Brussels and was seen as a slap at French President Jacques Chirac. The fact that the United States is taking a closer look at the two top candidates is not unusual, but the notion of going public with this information — which risks offending whoever loses — was viewed askance. "It is extremely odd, it is simply not done like this and never has been," said one alliance diplomat. But White House officials said the Americans saw

nothing inappropriate about the procedure. "There's never been a sudden departure like this," one official said. The post was left vacant when Willy Claes resigned on Oct. 20 in a Belgian bribery scandal. "This has been a no-notice replacement and we do have to move expeditiously to make sure we have someone in place before NATO moves to deploy troops in Bosnia," The White House official said. NATO diplomats say the decision to go public appears to reflect anger at Mr. Chirac who has more or less publicly rejected Mr. Ellemann-Jensen and endorsed Mr. Lubbers. France, which is not a member of the alliance's integrated military structure, appears to have angered some in the U.S. administration by trying to give the impression that its view counted for more than that of other countries. "It's beginning to look like it's a French-run alliance. I think the Americans wanted to send a reminder the issue must be squared with them," said one source. "But it is very peculiar and sets rather dangerous precedents."

Republicans poised for more gains in elections

WASHINGTON (R) — Republicans are pressing for fresh gains in state and local elections next Tuesday, when they could wrest the governorship of Kentucky and control of Virginia legislature from Democratic hands. This "off-year" election, in which no congressional seats are at stake, is being watched for signs of whether the conservative tide that swept the Republicans into full control of Congress last year is losing some of its power and whether President Bill Clinton's Democrats are holding ground. Recent polls show growing public opposition to the Republican agenda of balancing the budget largely through reduced spending on popular health and social programmes. The elections will also provide a good indication of the extent of the decline of Democratic strength in their once unassailable political bastion in southern states. In an added twist, a private group has organised a non-binding presidential

preference straw poll to take place at the same time as mayoral or city council elections in 17 cities. It could test the popularity of retired General Colin Powell as he ponders a possible White House bid. Governor's posts are at stake in Mississippi and Kentucky. In Mississippi, incumbent Republican Kirk Fordice is expected to ride an economic boom to victory over Democratic challenger Dick Melpus. Kentucky presents a more realistic test of strength between the two parties because incumbent Democratic Governor Brereton Jones is retiring. Mr. Clinton won the state in the 1992 presidential election but it swung towards the Republicans in the 1994 congressional and state elections. Democrats have controlled the governor's mansion for the past 24 years but Republican attorney Larry Forgy seemed to have momentum in a tight race against Democratic Lieutenant Governor Paul

Patton as the race entered its final days. Republicans were also pushing for a historic breakthrough in Virginia, where popular Republican Governor George Allen is pushing many of the same conservative policies being enacted by Republicans in Congress. Democrats, who hold narrow majorities in both houses of the state legislature, blocked most of his reforms this year but Mr. Allen, who is not up for election himself, launched a multi-million dollar campaign for Republican control. If the Republicans break through, it would be the first time they had won control of both houses of a state legislature in the former southern confederacy since the reconstruction period following the U.S. Civil War. Mayoral elections are also taking place in scores of cities including Philadelphia, Baltimore, Houston and Indianapolis. In Philadelphia and Baltimore, Democratic incumbents are expected to

prevail easily. Big cities are becoming a last refuge of Democratic strength against a Republican Congress than has often seemed hostile to urban interests. Forcing politicians to pay more heed to urban problems was the driving motivation behind a non-binding presidential straw poll, dubbed "CityVote," that will take place in 17 cities at the same time as Tuesday's elections. Despite legal difficulties, and the fact that most presidential candidates ignored the ballot and refused to take part in scheduled televised debates, organisers expect some 200,000 voters to participate. They can choose any one of 21 presidential hopefuls on a single ballot form. The fact that Gen. Powell's name appears on the list means the vote could give an early, though non-scientific, indication of his strength against that of declared candidates, including Mr. Clinton, among urban voters.

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Zayed's timely plan

UNITED ARAB Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan is setting a fine example on how best to keep East Jerusalem Arab for all times. Sheikh Zayed has just announced plans to finance housing projects and cover medical and social needs of Arab Jerusalem in a bid to counter determined efforts by Israeli leaders to weed out Arab presence in the Holy City, whether it is Muslim or Christian.

Sheikh Zayed's move came on the occasion of the Jerusalem Week which was launched late last month in Abu Dhabi. That week, whose aim was to save East Jerusalem from Arab and international apathy, also represented a precious demonstration of Muslim-Christian solidarity on the future of the city. Pope Shenouda of the Coptic church, former Jerusalem Archbishop Hilarion Capucci and Egypt's Grand Mufti Mohammad Sayed Attiya Tantawi, have all lent their support in addition to Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid, Palestinian Minister in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio Faisal Hussein, Jerusalem Mufti Akram Sabri and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi.

There are several housing projects that have been authorised but still lack funding for their construction. In the new era of peace, Israel can ill-afford to reject Arab investment to reconstruct East Jerusalem. There is but one way to sustain Arab presence in Jerusalem and that is to rebuild the infrastructure of the east side in every conceivable way. The other Arab Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, can be expected to follow up on the plan by pledging equal amounts if not more to the effort. As a matter of fact all of us who are genuinely concerned about the fate of East Jerusalem are also invited to demonstrate our care by deeds not just words.

Here in Jordan we have every opportunity to pitch in both on the official and private levels. Funds provided into the proposed housing plans would be money well spent from a business as well as charitable points of view. Major financial institutions in the country starting with banks should spearhead the Jordanian campaign to come to the rescue of Arab Jerusalem.

This rare initiative by the UAE president personally and his country calls for reciprocity from other Arab circles. There is no better way to support Arab rights in Jerusalem than to build it up and satisfy its people's steadfastness and basic needs.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESCRIBING THE assassination of Fathi Shaqaqi, leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, as a barbaric crime, a writer in Al Ra'i daily said that the reaction to this terrorist attack is bound to adversely affect the peace process. While the voices in many parts of the world are rising now demanding an end to all forms of terrorism, we find Israel going ahead with its state-organised terrorism, disregarding all humanitarian principles and the calls of the world community for peace and security for all individuals and societies, said Mousa Barhoumeh. The writer said the assassination of Shaqaqi was clearly perpetrated by the state of Israel, which in the past committed other crimes like the assassination of Palestinian leaders, including Abu Jihad and Abu Iyad. The new crime is bound to fuel the resistance activity against Israel, especially as the late Shaqaqi was not a common criminal but leader of a group that chose the struggle against the Israelis to end the occupation of Palestinian lands, said the writer. By committing crimes against the Palestinians, the Lebanese and others, said the writer, Israel is endangering the lives of its own citizens and inviting reprisals and more violence, which is detrimental to the Jewish state itself.

AHER AL Adwan, a writer in Al Dostour, described a decision by the Amman economic summit to hold annual conferences in other capitals to pursue discussions of economic developments as one of the prominent results of the three-day gathering, which ended Tuesday. It is rather encouraging to see that the countries of the region are determined to transcend the bloody past and embark on a new era of cooperation to improve the quality of life and to secure a better future for the region, he added. But, he said, it remains to be seen whether such gatherings can serve as a substitute for the Arab summits and the Arab League, which have failed to deal with chronic issues that have been plaguing the Arabs for years. Indeed the man in "need wants to see if the new trend for holding such meetings on a scale unprecedented at the regional level would help fulfill the aspirations of the masses, he said. It is good to see different countries of the region launching cooperation to handle economic issues like poverty and unemployment and to chart plans for regional development, said the writer. But, he said, the Arab states can also revive the Arab League institution in order to attain regional development but rather complementing this concept.

Jordanian Perspective

Hard work must follow MENA

AFTER MANY years, Jordan has hosted a major international event with flying colours. Notwithstanding the small little nuances, like the traffic jams and high security procedures, the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit was a huge success not only as far as the organising part of the conference was concerned, where Jordan played the part of an excellent host, but also as in terms of contributing to the very concept of regional economic cooperation and an alliance between the private sector and government.

Jordan was host for many Arab and Islamic conferences during the 80s, and the Kingdom has a track record of being a fairly good host. But the MENA summit, an unprecedented event, surpassed most of our expectations. Those who were looking for loopholes and shortcomings to be used as a weapon against the government and supporters of the Middle East peace process failed miserably. That is a shining feather in Jordan's cap.

The reason that the success of the organising part of the summit needs special mention is very simple: Had the day-to-day running of the conference, in terms of logistics, went wrong, it would have been disastrous for Jordan because the international participants at the conference would have measured Jordan's ability to successfully live up to its commitments on the basis of those failures. And this would have had a none-too-significant impact on further considerations of the business opportunities available here. We have lived through it and we can now heave a sigh of relief.

As we absorb the warm feeling of success, let us remind ourselves that the summit was not in itself an end. It was not a one-time exercise to which every Jordanian contributed, directly or indirectly; nor was it an event that means that now having hosted it successfully, we could all go back to our lives.

We offered a great forum for government leaders and international, regional and local businessmen to sit down and look at the features on the ground in the region, the priorities of the various parties involved, the possibilities of business, chances for attracting foreign investment, and means of further developing the spirit of cooperation among the countries of a region, which have for long lived in conflict and bloodshed. Jordanians have indeed full faith in their private sector and the ability of Jordanian businessmen to follow up on what was discussed and seek out suitable partners and financing arrangements as well as whatever else is needed to launch business ventures. But that is simply not enough. What we also need is concrete government action to encourage the private sector by offering prompt official action and adopting measures that facilitate the private sector contacts.

It is simple logic that the private sector could discuss anything and come up with innovative ideas and projects. But this effort would get nowhere if there are bureaucratic

problems and legal hurdles that make little sense. But the key role played by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is leading the new economic thinking of Jordan, and the active participation of every member of our government in the detailed discussions on complex subjects during the summit, give us enough optimism to believe that the executive authority will also rise up to the challenges of the day.

The summit has firmly placed Jordan in the international economic map. But pursuing the contacts that were established at the summit would require a lot of hard work by both the government and the private sector.

One of the main thoughts that haunted us in the run-up to the summit was about financing. It is one thing to draw up projects worth billions of dollars and present them, and it is a totally different thing to attract financing, given the stiff international race for capital. But as we saw at the summit, capital will be available if we could prove to those who have it that we offer everything that makes an international investor feel comfortable.

Among the many things that bothered the man on the street was how any international investor would bring in capital to Jordan, given the Kingdom's high per capita foreign debt. But the announcement that preceded the summit was again highlighted during the conference itself that two independent international agencies have given Jordan "above-average" credit rating in terms of the Kingdom's external and internal indebtedness gave us immense relief. For one thing, as it was pointed out to us, the rating now allows us access to an international pool of funds that was so far denied us. The assurance that our government offered us that this access will not be misused for consumption purposes was all the more comforting.

It also put to rest our fears that the foreign debt factor might negatively influence investment decisions. In a regional context, the establishment of institutions to guide regional economic cooperation was another notch in the quest to bring about a focused approach to regional development. It does not matter where those institutions will be based as Jordan and the rest of the region could work together to make the best use of those institutions. And, the way things looked, on the final day of the summit, everyone concerned was determined to achieve success in realising the very goals that are behind creating those institutions.

In short, Jordan and Jordanians have every reason to be proud of having hosted the MENA summit and to look forward to positive interaction with the international economic community to create new facts that would precisely serve the very objective of raising the standard of living of the people of the region and gradually eliminate the factors that opponents of peace use to propagate their defeatist theories.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Summit success a major achievement for Jordan

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The local press last week focused on Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which ended in Amman Tuesday, the question of Jerusalem and some domestic affairs.

AL RA'I daily said that the success of the Amman conference was largely due to the coordinated and strenuous efforts on the part of the public and private sectors. The success means that the two sectors are capable of working together and guaranteeing other successes in planning and executing projects not only in conferences, said the paper. Indeed, the Amman summit was a unique experiment for the Jordanian people who pooled their resources together to ensure success not only in the organisation of this international gathering but rather in the excellent creation of the required atmosphere for the business people and other guests enabling them to carry out their mission, the paper added.

The Amman summit was an event that opened the eyes of many officials and private sector people to the fact that the country is in bad need of a conference palace where delegations from around the world can meet and discuss politics, business and other affairs, said Bassam Haddadin, a writer in Al Dostour. While admitting that the conference was a real success in terms of preparation and execution, one cannot ignore the fact that Jordan lacks proper facilities for such huge gatherings, he argued. The country is in badly need for a multipurpose conference palace, where meetings to discuss the economy, politics and cultural affairs can be held, said the writer. It is not logical to ask political parties, the business community and professional organisations and others to hold their meetings in hotels and halls that were created for wedding ceremonies. He said the march towards democracy and openness should be coupled with adequate infrastructure.

It is up to the United States, which sponsored the Amman summit, to make its results successful and this depends on its willingness to offer financial assistance to the coun-

tries that were involved in conflict for so long, said Taher Al Adwan. The columnist, who writes for Al Dostour, said that the Middle East is not in need of a theatre where the lights are focused on ambitious projects but it is rather in need of funds from the United States, Europe and Japan for the implementation of a Marshall-like development plan. If the conference has been used as a mere platform to help President Bill Clinton secure another term in office, then the people's frustration would increase and the conference would have adverse consequences, said the writer. He said that the Arab masses, who had seen the United States providing \$10 billion in guarantees for Israel to help it create settlements in Arab territories, are expecting tangible and concrete and practical steps to help the Arab region attain sustainable development and prosperity.

Describing the Amman summit as a forum that projected good opportunities for regional cooperation, a writer in Al Ra'i said the ball is now in the court of the Western advanced and rich nations, which can ensure success for such cooperation. Mahmoud Rimawi said that these countries can help by making available the required funds for the projected Middle East Development Bank and through soft loans to the countries of the region. But, he said, nothing can be guaranteed unless the lingering Israeli obstacles in the path of peace have been removed and the Middle East has enjoyed a comprehensive settlement benefiting all concerned parties without any discrimination.

A writer in Al Dostour blamed the Arab regimes in general and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in particular for Israel's disregard of the Arab and Muslim feelings over Jerusalem and the U.S. Congress's vote to move the American embassy to the city. Yasser Za'atreh said the Palestinian leadership, which deferred any discussion of the status of Jerusalem until the final stage of the negotiations, cannot blame the U.S. Congress for its decision.

Arab and Muslims regimes, which had failed to undertake an effective collective stand vis-a-vis the vote in the Congress, said the writer, are in no position to voice a protest since they are now friends of the Jewish state. Had the Palestinians not signed the Oslo agreement with Israel, the U.S. Congress would not have taken this decision, argued the writer, who asserted that the Oslo deal was the gravest sin committed against Jerusalem.

Ibrahim Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i, said that the Arab countries should not remain passive vis-a-vis Washington's decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is not an ordinary city by the U.S. Congress is of grave consequences, said the writer, who urged the Arab states to confront Israeli leaders' drive to perpetuate their annexation of the Arab city and stand firm in the face of the U.S. Congress to prevent the move from taking place. The writer decried what he called the Arab silence on the issue which could be interpreted as condoning the Congress's decision. He said that the Arabs had accepted peace with the Jewish state on the basis of U.N. resolutions, which stipulate that peace must be exchanged for land, including the Arab city of Jerusalem.

Suddenly, piety dug roots in the heart of Jordan Television (JTV) to a degree that JTV never misses a prayer, broadcasting all calls to prayer on its silver screen with a footage of Al Abdali mosque, followed by a heart-breaking musical piece on the flute, said Basel Tallouzi in Al Bilad weekly. In fact, said the writer, when all this began, I started to think of the motivations for this sudden religious revival of our "faithful" JTV, thinking that the long-awaited Al Mahdi (who in Islamic belief will show up sometime before the day of judgement to guide people to Islam) has appeared or that JTV's electronic receivers got a message via satellite informing it that Doom's Day was nearing.

I ruled out such thoughts when I remembered that our television is a government institution to the

bone, and thus it is a means for political manoeuvres which are concocted away from mosques and Koranic verses, said the writer. So, he said, I was wondering what was the new manoeuvre which was being cooked on "the fire of hell" and forced through our throats in the form of religious pills. I was asking myself why this sudden piety coincided with peace developments and the signing of the Wadi Araba (Jordanian-Israeli peace) treaty.

All of this brought to my mind the way children try to hide their ill-doings, said Mr. Tallouzi. If a child hits his brother, for example, he will rush red-faced to his mother to tell her: "Mom, I hit my brother."

Our government, may God preserve its innocence — he said, is doing the same thing. It realises well the position of religion for all those involved in peace treaties with the Jews who never respect a pledge nor a truce, and thus it rushes to us through its media institutions to broadcast calls to prayer, as if it is trying to conceal its involvement by showing its piety and that it is still faithful, and as if saying that no one of the believers should pay attention to those unimportant treaties because they are just political protocols that have nothing to do with religion. The writer said that one difference, however, stands out between our government and the aforementioned guilty child. It is that our government never gets red-faced as it tries to conceal its sins, thinking that we are naive kids who are fooled by a sheikh's traditional head-dress and beard. Or maybe our government is still deceived by Carl Marx's saying that "religion is the opium of peoples," forgetting that Marx's saying is too outdated, said the writer. This, he said, makes the government the only party which gets high on its opium without us knowing it.

What we can now do, as citizens, is to implore God the Almighty not to make JTV more devout by making all its programmes religious, not because we are infidels, but because any such change will surely mean that the government has signed a merger treaty with Israel, said the writer.

Traumatised by the new reality

By David March

PITY POOR France! A Gallic conspiracy theorist, pondering the state of the nation, might ruefully imagine that France had been brought to its current low ebb by sleight of foreign hand. While nuclear test blasts echo fruitlessly around the south Pacific, at home the currency is languishing, economic growth declining, social divisiveness widening and confidence in political leadership crumbling. Could this be a product of a cunning plot to destabilise France by feeding it the illusion that the country could ignore the disagreeable realities of the post-cold war world? By seeking to tie the franc to the mark in a bid to hold down a unified Germany — a policy now coming more unstuck by the day — has France been lured into a position of economic and political infirmity by its neighbour east of the Rhine?

The truth is more prosaic. France is in a mess because of its own failure to make internal reforms to adjust to the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the ending of the U.S.-Soviet superpower system. External circumstances have changed, but France still wants to play the game of "Carry On as a Grande Nation" — exerting pivotal international influence without the pivot. Promising a colourful mix of nationalism, Europeanism, socialism, corporatism and liberalism, President Jacques Chirac took office in April either unaware or uncaring of the contradictions in his policies. Six months and a string of broken promises later, the full extent of the crisis facing France's society and its decision-making structures has been laid bare. Mr. Chirac has been hoist with the petard of his own hubris.

France's economic malaise is just one element of its troubles. They include the spillover into France of terrorist attacks emanating from the bloody unrest in Algeria — a problem that both feeds and feeds off the growing alienation of the country's new-generation immigrants from the Maghreb. The economic crisis is, however, the most serious manifestation of France's ills, not least because it exposes the country's full vulnerability in the all-important bilateral comparison with Germany.

The sheer ponderous continuity of German political leadership has exacerbated France's task of maintaining economic credibility. Since 1983, when France shifted away from devaluations to keeping the franc steady against the mark, France has had eight prime ministers, none of them achieving the full confidence of the financial markets — while Germany has had Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Over the past five years the power of French-style capitalism, epitomised by the omnipresence of grande école-educated functionaries in industry, banking and the civil service, has been weakened beyond measures. Since German unification in 1990, top French industrial companies and banks have been much less successful than German ones in restructuring their operations to meet international competition.

The decaying influence of the French governmental elite has been evident, too, in budgetary policy. Well-meaning statements of intent have not been turned into action. Unlike Germany, which has recently been more adept than expected in cutting its budget deficit to match the European targets for economic and monetary union, France's fiscal stance has been irresolute. Its public sector indebtedness, like that of Germany, has doubled during the past five years. France, though, has nothing to show for it — in contrast to the Federal Republic, which has taken on the extra debt to absorb and rehabilitate the former East Germany.

Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist prime minister be-

tween 1993 and 1995 and Mr. Chirac's opponent in the presidential election earlier this year, launched a piously worded crusade two-and-a-half years ago to head off what he called the "fatal trap of spiralling indebtedness". Balladur's rhetoric far outstripped his capacity to deliver, and the deficit rose last year to 6 per cent of gross domestic product, double the Maastricht target.

Mr. Balladur's successor, Alain Juppé, warned three weeks ago that high public spending, particularly on social security, placed France in "national peril". Mr. Juppé has faced anger within his own party over his illegitimate use of a chic subsidised Paris apartment (which he is now being forced to vacate), a one-day general strike from public service workers protesting about a planned pay freeze, and increased attacks on the franc fort from right- and left-wing politicians. The latest came last week from Mr. Juppé's Gaullist rival Philippe Séguin, who criticised the "devastating" consequences of high French interest rates.

High short-term interest rates no longer support the franc. They depress it because the triple effect of lowering economic growth, pushing up government spending on unemployment and further weakening the capital base of France's badly overstretched banking system makes the franc fort policy increasingly unsustainable in the eyes of the currency markets.

France will be able to avoid a formal devaluation against the mark thanks to the wider currency fluctuation bands that were brought in during the 1993 summer flare-up in the European exchange-rate mechanism. But the next few weeks are likely to show that France is willing to trade a weaker franc — and (inevitably) the postponement of its plans for European monetary union — in return for lower interest rates and hopes of economic recovery.

As Le Monde delicately put it in an editorial on Friday, Britain, by lowering sterling's value against the mark in September 1992, provided an "example" that could "enrich" the French economic debate. Britain's devaluation, Le Monde pointed out, is one reason why the U.K. has 1 million fewer unemployed people than France. Unlike Britain in 1992, France has a low inflation rate and a current account surplus, but the overriding need to reduce interest rates indicates that the franc's link with the mark will shortly be "temporarily loosened" (as any Paris governmental euphemism would no doubt describe it).

Unfortunately for Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppé, France's troubles cannot be resolved simply by Houdini-like unravelling of the mark knot. Reflecting shortages in skills, flexibility and capital in much of French industry, as well as the sluggishness of European export markets, France's immediate corporate prospects would receive only a modest boost from the franc depreciation. Further, a looser monetary policy would require France to tighten further budgetary rigour — a move already demanded by the Patronat employers' federation, which is likely to cause more pain all round.

France is in the uncomfortable position of knowing that, whatever action it takes on the economic front, the short-term consequences will be dire. This will be grist to the mill of Parisian conspiracy theorists. Anglo-Saxon foreign-exchange dealers taking an autumn break around the Champs-Élysées in the next few weeks should take out extra insurance cover.

The author is director of European strategy at Robert Fleming, the London-based investment bank. This Article is reprinted from the Independent.

Features

Opportunities abound in healthcare sector

By Omar M. Lattouf

IN THE Mediterranean region, as elsewhere in the world, healthcare is viewed as a fundamental and inalienable human right. Health maintenance and disease prevention are increasingly receiving the same attention traditionally given to food, personal, environmental, and national security. Healthcare strategists are focusing on exploring applicable methodology that enhances cost-effective, high-quality healthcare delivery.

On a regional basis, and perhaps on the international level, Jordan has distinguished itself in the quality and cost-effectiveness of healthcare delivery. Complex surgical and medical procedures are being carried out, successfully, at fraction of the cost to similar international centres. Cardiac and neuro-surgical operative charges are on the average 70 per cent less expensive than in comparable centres in the West.

Jordan's pre-eminence in medical services is multifactorial. Perhaps, one of the most important of those factors was the early focus that was given to the build-up of the human and material resources in the King Hussein Medical Centre. This centre is rightfully credited to be the facility that has graduated many of the excellent healthcare providers this country has. This centre has conducted complex medical procedures with great success rate. It thus has become a referral point for many of the countries in the region.

After completing their military duties, many of the key physicians and surgeons take up private careers in community hospitals, bringing with them expertise that has led to the setting of a new standard of quality care in private practice.

The fertile grounds for good medical care that has already been laid, encouraged the return of highly qualified doctors to Jordan after training and, or practicing, in the United States, Europe and other countries. Management of complex medical problems became possible in the public and private sectors.

Interventional cardiology grew at a rapid pace. Six active cardiac catheter labs are performing in excess of four thousand procedures annually. The number of open heart surgical procedures is steadily growing at a rate of 10 per cent a year, reaching to about 2,500 cases annually. Other surgical and medical specialties grew equally strong. Highly qualified neurosurgeons, plastic and re-constructive surgeons, pulmonologists, nephrologists, internists, oncologists, general and sub-specialist surgeons contributed to the rapid overall growth.

The following projects are presented for examination and potential deployment:

1. Electronic medical data exchange.
2. Private nursing school for Jordan's private hospitals.
3. Medical equipment assembly plant.
4. Radio therapy unit at Jordan Hospital.

Dozens of joint ventures between Jordanian and Israeli businessmen were also discussed, and, in some cases, projects were also finalised. These include cooperation between textile and garment marketing outlets in Israel and potential Jordanian manufacturing units, Israeli consumer retail outlets and Jordanian suppliers, and Israeli cosmetic manufacturers and Jordanian wholesalers.

Egypt realised two of its key objectives: Securing itself as host for the \$5 billion Middle East development bank and for the next MENA summit in 1996. (Diplomatic sources say that a deal was actually struck in Moscow during a task force meeting several months ago that Cairo would host the bank).

At the same time, Egyptian businessmen were also

Jordan has become a referral point and centre of excellence in cardiac care, ophthalmology, in vitro fertilisation and other medical disciplines. Neurosurgery, with the upcoming addition of the Gama Knife is expected to witness further growth.

Jordan's medical schools have produced doctors who have been able to compete for admissions in some of the best residency programmes in the world. Postgraduate medical training conducted by the American and British-boarded specialists in cardiology, general and vascular surgery, infectious diseases, endocrinology and internal medicine of the Islamic Hospital and the Royal Medical Services are producing well-trained specialists.

State of the art hospitals and diagnostic laboratories were created to strengthen the already established institutions.

Increased attention on the quality of accommodation, as well as the quality of care, became noticeable in a number of competitive hospitals. The quality care was complemented by prestigious and comfortable hospital surroundings that were designed and built in accordance with the highest international standards.

Over \$100 million has been invested in new hospitals: the Arab Centre, the Jordan Hospital, Ibn Al Haytham, the expansion of the Specialty Hospital, Al Khalidi Hospital and Amman Surgical Hospital.

Jordan has rightfully earned its reputation as a centre of excellence in medicine. Jordan stands to further strengthen its leadership role in medicine. It already has many of the needed requirements. Yet it has not reached its maximum capacity in care delivery. Jordan can deliver high quality care to a greater number of patients from the neighbouring countries and become key referral and reference centre for complex medical services and information.

With trans-continental telemedicine ready to be commissioned between Jordan Medical Centres and the Mayo Clinic in the USA, Jordan is setting itself to become a regional leader in the fast growing field of electronic information exchange and further position its capable manpower in a pivotal role creating new job opportunities and strengthening the overall economic infrastructure.

Around the deserted spot where the Gulf of Aqaba thins to its narrowest point between the Sinai peninsula and Saudi Arabia before merging into the Red Sea, lies the debris of war — parts of the giant artillery pieces which gave Israel the pretext to launch its lightning strike against its Arab neighbours in June 1967. Coils of barbed wire, rusted by the sea air, remain to this day to prevent the unwary traveller from straying into the mines that litter the

area.

Just a few miles to the south lies the tourist resort of Na'ma Bay, next to the original fishing village of Sharm Al Shaikh. Despite the decline in the tourist trade in the country caused by the Islamist insurgency of the past three years, Na'ma Bay and its related hotel complexes in Sharm Al Shaikh are thriving.

Israeli tourists mingle with their Italian counterparts on the sea-side esplanade that circles the bay. In the cooler night air, Egyptian workers stare wide-eyed at the scantily dressed women from foreign parts. Western pop music clashes with Arabic songs in a bid by rival establishments to attract customers.

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Middle East International

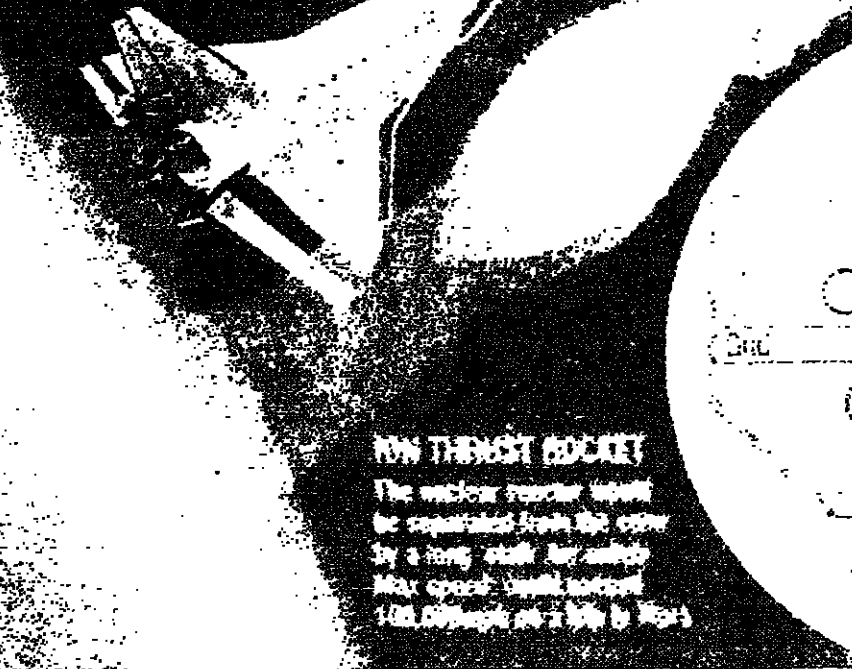
Revealed: How to get to Mars in a month

MISSION TO MARS

Ion thrust rockets could later revolutionise the way we travel to distant planets

SPACE SHUTTLE

Traditional chemical rockets are unable to reach the necessary speed
Max speed: about 25,000km/h



The first operational ion thruster is being built by British researchers in cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA). In theory, the type of rocket they have developed is capable of achieving near-light speeds, enabling man to reach Mars in a month, compared with today's estimated one-year journey time.

Its designer David Fearn, the senior scientist with the Defence Research Agency (DRA) space laboratories in Farnborough, Hampshire, believes the motor is the way to put a man on Mars. "If there is any way human are going to reach the planets, then this is it," he said.

The first operational use of the ion thruster will be as a humble manoeuvring device for the Artemis communications satellite, due to be launched in 1997. If it performs well, a larger version, coupled to a nuclear reactor, could be used to carry unmanned probes and eventually humans to other planets, starting with Mars. "We now have the technology to do it within a decade or two. All we need is the money," said Fearn.

The development has prompted international excitement among scientists, especially in America, where research into ion thrusters is so advanced that a spacecraft has been designed and a reactor bought for it. But the project was put on hold after budget cuts last year, allowing Europe to catch up.

Ion thrusters use microwaves, radio waves or electric fields to strip electrons from gas atoms. The resulting ions are then accelerated to enormous velocities by a power-

ful electric field, which also focuses them through a thruster. The stream of ions leaving the craft acts in the same way as the exhaust gases of an ordinary chemical rocket motor, propelling the whole vessel forward.

The greater efficiency of the ion drive means that a spacecraft could keep its engines switched on throughout a journey, allowing continuous acceleration. In this way, the huge velocities needed to carry live cargoes between planets within a reasonable timescale could be achieved.

Alan Johnston, professor of space science at University College London, an adviser to the project, said ion thrus-

ters could be the key. "Chemical rockets need huge amounts of fuel and they are limited in the ultimate velocity they can produce because of the relatively low speed of the exhaust gases. Ions accelerated through an electric field reach much higher velocities, which means that a given weight of fuel produces a much bigger push. That is why they are so efficient."

The potential of ion thrusters has been known for more than two decades and several countries have tested primitive versions in space. But putting the technology together in an operational version has proved difficult.

Recently, however, the potential of ion thrusters as cheap and highly efficient

motors for a new generation of communications satellites has prompted a mini-space race from which the ESA is emerging as leader. Besides the version designed by Fearn and his team, Artemis will also carry a second ion thruster working on slightly different principles and built by a joint British and German group. Agostino Deagofuny, a senior engineer with the ESA, said: "Until now we have used chemical rockets but the new motors are much more efficient. It is a very important advance for space travel."

Professor Charles Merkle, leader of a Pennsylvania State University research team that has been working on microwave-powered ion

thrusters with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said such devices were feasible for interplanetary travel. "We already know that ion thrusters will work for adjusting the orbits of spacecraft. In theory they could power a craft on much longer journeys."

Dr. Martin Turner, who lectures in rocket motor technology at the University of Leicester space centre, said his research students were looking at ways of using ion thrusters to send small probes to Alpha Centauri, our closest interstellar neighbour.

"The only obstacle is that you would need a nuclear reactor to generate enough

electric power to fuel the thrusters, especially if you wanted to get the further planets like Pluto or Neptune. The difficulty there is no technical one of whether it would be right for us to send nuclear reactors that might contaminate our neighbouring planets."

Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction writer who described ion drives in books in the 1950s, said: "You see the same pattern with all these ideas. First they say it is non-sense, then they say it's too expensive, next they say it's a good idea and finally they argue over who thought of it first."

The Observer.

Red Sea shares await a boom in tourism

By Cherif Cordahi

IT MAY be 28 years since the guns were used, but the emplacement that protected them is still there. Now, instead of Israeli commandos, Egyptian tourists come to peer out from the site where President Nasser promised to sink an Israeli ship that passed through the Straits of Tiran.

Around the deserted spot where the Gulf of Aqaba thins to its narrowest point between the Sinai peninsula and Saudi Arabia before merging into the Red Sea, lies the debris of war — parts of the giant artillery pieces which gave Israel the pretext to launch its lightning strike against its Arab neighbours in June 1967. Coils of barbed wire, rusted by the sea air, remain to this day to prevent the unwary traveller from straying into the mines that litter the

area.

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Middle East International

Most secure what they sought

(Continued from page 1)

men attended the conference, some of them rubbing shoulders with Gulf Arabs for the first time, shaking hands and exchanging business cards for future contacts (a lunch hosted by Israel appeared to have been one of the most crowd-drawing events of the summit, with waiters rushing to set up extra tables at the last minute).

Although Israel presented projects worth nearly \$25 billion, Israeli businessmen and officials did not necessarily press their approach with their usual aggressive vigour, participants said.

"It seems that Israeli businessmen took seriously an implicit (Israeli) government suggestion that they do not adopt an aggressive approach lest that might fuel Arab hardliners' arguments that Israelis were seeking economic domination of the region," commented a European participant.

According to participants and Jordanian officials, it is very difficult to pinpoint the net outcome of the conference that were made during the summit simply because of the natural reluctance of businessmen to discuss ideas and proposals in public before concrete results have been achieved.

One of the most important agreements involving Israel signed during the

summit was an accord between the government of the Jewish state and the American Enron Corporation under which Qatari gas will be supplied to Israel beginning 2001.

Jordan is likely to house at Aqaba the major terminal for Qatari gas, which will be ferried by tankers to the Red Sea port for onward transport to Israel. Jordan itself and the Palestinian territories could also buy Qatari gas.

Dozens of joint ventures between Jordanian and Israeli businessmen were also discussed, and, in some cases, projects were also finalised. These include cooperation between textile and garment marketing outlets in Israel and potential Jordanian manufacturing units, Israeli consumer retail outlets and Jordanian suppliers, and Israeli cosmetic manufacturers and Jordanian wholesalers.

Egypt realised two of its key objectives: Securing itself as host for the \$5 billion Middle East development bank and for the next MENA summit in 1996. (Diplomatic sources say that a deal was actually struck in Moscow during a task force meeting several months ago that Cairo would host the bank).

At the same time, Egyptian businessmen were also

very active in the summit, most of them focusing on their counterparts from the Gulf states for venture capital with Egyptian technology. Again, if agreements were reached, they were not announced.

Jordan and the PNA signed an agreement under which Jordan would offer expertise in energy-related areas to the Palestinian territories.

Another accord launched a \$2 million U.S.-financed study on laying a Jordan-Palestine-Israel fibre-optics network that could serve as a Middle Eastern "information highway."

The Palestinians, represented by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and a group of West Bank and Gaza businessmen, appeared to have adopted a rather low-key approach in Amman for financing private sector projects since most of their contacts with the international community are conducted on a bilateral level out of Gaza and Jerusalem as well as between European and U.S.-based Palestinian businessmen and potential investors.

Qatar announced the establishment of a \$250 million fund for the Palestinian territories and said the first \$25 million were already secured. The agreement on setting up the fund was reached early this year, diplomatic sources said.

"Friends advised me for a while not to leave the apart-

Delegations praise Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Petra, reporting from Cairo, quoted Egyptian newspapers as praising the outcome of the summit.

The press quoted Foreign Minister Amr Musa as expressing satisfaction with the outcome and lauding the meeting, organisation of the meetings, adding that the conference reaffirmed the need for closer cooperation among regional countries and the links between peace, security, development and democracy.

Mohammad Asfour, a leading Jordanian businessman, said that the summit

proved the concept that only by building the economy of peace can the concerned parties guarantee the policy of peace.

In a statement published Friday in Al Ra'i daily, Mr. Asfour said that the conference has served as a platform for the building of peace through launching investment and development projects benefiting all countries in the region.

He said that summit has witnessed the birth of important institutions that provide the right mechanism for building the economy of peace and paved the ground for the rehabilitation of the regional economies.

agents were plotting to kill him.

The bi-weekly Egyptian fundamentalist newspaper Al Shaab said Shaqqaqi told Rifaat Said Ahmad, an Egyptian Islamist, of the plot to kill him when they both attended a scientific conference in Libya.

Shaqqaqi had gone to Tripoli to try to sort out a crisis over Libya's decision to expel Palestinians and said Israeli agents were planning to kill him in Damascus, where he was based.

"Friends advised me for a while not to leave the apart-

ment where I live with Ahmad Jibril (leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command) because Zionist agents had arrived in Syria to assassinate me," he said, according to the paper.

"Several days later, I asked them to let me go out and I went to a scientific conference in Sudan because I only fear God," Shakaki added.

"There is no alternative to jihad and the armed struggle for the liberation of Jerusalem and all Palestine," he told Mr. Ahmad.

Senate

(Continued from page 1)

gress, without reason, to harm the PLO, violate the commitments made by the United States within the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords," said Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani.

"We consider these measures, especially at this time, reflect an attempt by Israel's supporters within the Congress and Israeli extremists to stop the peace process just as it is in a decisive stage with the spread of autonomy on the West Bank," Mr. Kanafani told AFP.

He added the PNA had received assurances from the U.S. administration on the future of relations.

Balkan

(Continued from page 1)

A widespread campaign to force Muslim civilians out of their homes in Serb-held territory in the wake of huge gains by Croat and Muslim forces just before an Oct. 12 ceasefire came into force has been condemned by the U.N.

The return of those territories to Serb control was one of the demands raised by Bosnian Serb leaders at Thursday's talks.

"We are committed to return our ethnic territories," the speaker of the Bosnian Serb "parliament" Momcilo Krajisnik, said in an interview with the Serb newspaper Olsobodjenje shortly before a scheduled meeting between Mr. Izetbegovic and Mr. Milosevic.

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian intelligence agents have dismantled several networks of "spies and terrorists" and arrested counter-revolutionaries who had infiltrated the country, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said Friday.

A senior intelligence officer cited by the agency in Orumiye in the province of Western Azerbaijan on the border with Turkey and Iraq, said those arrested had intended to launch attacks in Iran. He said they had given confidential military and political information about the province to foreigners but gave no further details. However, the unidentified official said in the past four months intelligence officers had discovered seven parcels containing tracts and propaganda from the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, the main armed opposition group, which is based in Iraq.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamas fugitives surrender to PLO police

GAZA (R) — Two members of the militant Islamic group Hamas who escaped from a Palestinian jail in self-rule Gaza last month surrendered to police, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) general said on Friday. Major-General Abdul Razeq Majajdeh, commander of the Palestinian police forces in Gaza, said Usama Abu Taha and Yousef Al Mallahi turned themselves in on Thursday night. Abu Taha was serving a 12-year sentence and Mallahi seven years for security violations. They and a third man, all members of Hamas's Izzeddin Al Qassam brigades, escaped from a Gaza prison on Oct. 22. The other man turned himself in to police one day after the escape.

Oman expected to free nearly 200 convicts

BAHRAIN (AP) — A senior Omani official says his country expects to free nearly 200 Islamic activists, some of whom were sentenced to death last year for plotting to overthrow the government, the Al Hayat daily reported Friday. The Arabic-language newspaper quoted the minister of palace affairs, Ali Ben Majid Al Muammari, as saying the prisoners were expected to be pardoned by Sultan Qaboos, the country's ruler. He said they were likely to be freed Nov. 18, the country's national day. Colonel Muammari noted that Sultan Qaboos had commuted the death sentences given by a state security court to some of the militants last year to prison terms. He added, however, that a final decision on whether the prisoners would be released had not been taken, said the paper.

Iran dismantles spy network — IRNA

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Morocco moves to keep up momentum of Amman summit

RABAT (R) — Morocco, elected to host the permanent secretariat of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, has wasted no time in publishing a programme to promote regional trade and investment.

A day after the summit of politicians and businessmen ended in Amman, the secretariat issued broad outlines of its strategy to boost economic cooperation and attract private investment to the region.

Mostafa Terrab, the secretariat's secretary-general, told Reuters Thursday that image-building was a key to promoting investment in an area that was getting far less than its share of foreign direct investment.

Mr. Terrab said the secretariat's role would differ from

that of the new Middle East bank, whose creation was announced in Amman, by focusing on small businesses rather than grandiose infrastructure projects.

"The role we see will be different. Our mission is to promote investment by image building for the region. The idea being that there is a gap between what the region attracts in terms of investment and what it should be receiving," Mr. Terrab said.

"This is an image problem," he added.

A summit paper says the Middle East and North Africa have not benefited fully from the rapid growth of foreign direct investment flows into developing countries.

It said that with few exceptions, like Morocco and

Tunisia, most countries in the region received insignificant amounts of investment considering their level of development and the size of their market.

Mr. Terrab admitted that the violence in neighbouring Algeria had had a negative impact on Morocco's image as a stable country.

He also insisted there was a need to maintain a regional approach when trying to attract foreign investment.

"The programme is based on a realisation that there is a negative economic domino effect that countries have on the investment climate... countries are suffering due to negative events in the region and the programme intends to reverse this domino effect," he said.

Mr. Terrab added: "There is no reason for Algeria not to benefit from the fact that it lies next to Morocco and Tunisia." The same should apply to countries like Mauritania and even Syria, which boycotted the Amman summit.

Morocco does not want to be forgotten as the country that hosted the first Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca last year, marking a new phase in Arab-Israeli relations.

Its reward has been an agreement to base a permanent secretariat in Rabat and more importantly at the Royal Palace, signalling King Hassan's personal involvement in launching the process.

Yemen seeking \$1b for reforms

SANAA (R) — A senior Yemeni official was quoted as saying his impoverished country expects to receive \$1 billion in loans and credit facilities to implement an ambitious economic reform programme.

Finance ministry under-secretary Ahmad Ghaleb told the official Al Thawra newspaper that teams from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were currently in Yemen to discuss Sanaa's two-phased reform programme.

He predicted an agreement for \$300 million to finance the first 15-month phase "to stabilise the economy... in addition to what would be offered by donor states and funds saved after rescheduling debts."

The second phase "will involve restructuring and large funds will be made available by the World Bank, IMF and other international institutions in addition to donor states," he said. "This aid would be between \$700 million and \$1 billion."

Yemen, among the world's poorest countries, has a foreign debt of about \$8 billion owed mainly to the former Soviet Union for previous arms deals.

In July, a World Bank official promised to triple aid to Yemen if economic reforms were carried out speedily, but warned Sanaa not to expect more support if the implementation of projects financed by the bank was delayed.

Sanaa in March raised the prices of petrol and basic services, following several rounds of talks with the bank and the IMF on reforms.

Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani has said the measures helped cut the forecast 1995 deficit to 35 billion riyals (\$700 million) from 62 billion riyals (\$1.25 billion) at the official rate of 50 riyals to the dollar.

Reform of markets is key to meeting Arab capital needs

THE ARAB World needs to open, reform and integrate its capital markets if it is to attract anything like the flows of private capital it needs to compete internationally, and begin reaping the dividends of the peace with Israel now taking shape.

This was the near unanimous conclusion of senior businessmen, fund managers, and regional market operators and officials at a series of workshops on capital market development at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman.

The summit, backed by the U.S., Russia, the EU and Japan, announced plans to set up a regional development bank, along with regional business and tourism councils.

But government and business leaders at the gathering recognised that likely flows of official aid, development loans, and remittances from expatriate workers would not come anywhere close to matching the region's capital and financing requirements.

The World Bank, in a report out last week, said the region's deficit financing requirements alone were the highest of any developing re-

gion, and three times those of Africa and Asia in the Middle East, or eastern Arab World. Yet the region as a whole attracts less than one per cent of total private capital flows into developing countries, and about 0.3 per cent of portfolio investment.

The bank estimates that Arab capital amounting to \$350b is held outside the region.

Percy Barnevik, president and chief executive of ABB, the electrical engineering multinational with \$5b turnover in the MENA region, said there was "a need for massive private investments" over the next 10 years, including more than \$60b in power generation, and \$100b in oil and gas development.

Aid contributions would be marginal against the hundreds of billions of dollars required, he said, estimating that at least 30 per cent of investment in infrastructure would have to come from the private sector.

As yet, however, there has been very little privatisation of infrastructure and utilities, offering few financing opportunities to the private sector.

Total capitalisation of Arab stock markets now amounts to around \$80b — nearly half of that in Saudi,

Arabia — against roughly \$1,000b in the world's 38 emerging markets, and about \$45b in Israel, according to a leading Saudi economist. All markets in the region, saving Israel and now Jordan, are classified as "pre-emerging", one Arab economist said.

Jordan, along with Tunisia, Morocco and to a lesser extent Bahrain and Oman, have opened up their markets to foreigners. But the region's economies remain largely closed to each other; there are few intra-market links which might add depth and liquidity; the corporate bond market is virtually non-existent; and with the exception of Jordan, Arab countries are resistant to country credit ratings which would help upgrade their markets.

The region's markets for the most part lack transparency and adequate information on listed companies, and need independent regulatory bodies and sounder legal frameworks for investors. "Have you ever tried to go to court in any Arab country today?" asked a leading Arab fund manager. "You would have to wait 10 years" for a result.

Financial Times.

U.S. needs budget surplus, not balance — Greenspan

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The drive to balance the federal budget is just a first step as the country will need an actual surplus in the next century to cope with a growing population, Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan has said.

In an address in New York, Mr. Greenspan said he was optimistic that the White House and Congress would find a way to end their concerned battle over the budget "in the reasonably near future."

President Bill Clinton has threatened to veto the Republican plan to eliminate the deficit by 2002, charging that it is too heavy on social spending cuts while offering tax cuts to the rich.

But Mr. Greenspan also said balancing the budget would not be enough.

"We should think seriously about moving the budget into surplus in the early part of the next century to help foster the accumulation of productive assets to meet the retirement needs of today's working generation," he said.

The Fed chairman said it would be necessary to plan a course of action to deal with the current account deficit which will emerge at the start of the next decade due to population growth.

"Laws enacted with effects delayed for fifteen to twenty years are likely to be decided more rationally con-

structed than when a crisis is much closer at hand," he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy is already starting to feel the bite from the big budget cuts promised by the Republican-led Congress — and they have not even been signed into law yet.

Economists reckon that growth in the fourth quarter could be reduced by as much as a half per cent by the drive to balance the budget and slash government spending.

"There's going to be a drag on the economy," said Douglas Lee, chief economist at Hong Kong Shanghai Bank Corp.'s HSBC Washington Analysis Group.

But much — if not all — of that drag could be offset next year when hefty tax cuts proposed by the Republicans are expected to kick in, economists said.

The Clinton administration and the Republican-led Congress are still squabbling over the budget for the current fiscal year that started Oct. 1.

But in the meantime, the government has been operating under a so-called continuing resolution that has kept a tight rein on outlays. That resolution is due to run out Nov. 13, but is likely to be extended as the administration and Congress try to work out a budget.

The economy already looked set to slow down in the fourth quarter after an unexpected 4.2 per cent surge

in the third quarter, and the government cuts will only aggravate that, economists said.

David Wyss, senior economist at Massachusetts-based Consultants DRI/McGraw Hill, said he expects growth to slow to about two per cent in the current quarter, in part because of the tight spending curbs in the continuing resolution.

Economists differ on the size of the impact from the reduced outlays, with some playing down its significance but others like Mr. Lee saying it could trim growth by a half per cent.

The exact impact of the spending curbs on the economy is uncertain because it is not clear how individual government agencies will react to the continuing resolution. Will they cut back sharply on outlays, or will they assume their spending authority will be restored once a budget deal is struck?

Economists generally agree though that the economy will benefit in the long-run from a balanced budget because it will free up money for use by the more efficient private sector.

In the short-run, the budget cuts can curb growth as government hand-outs to the poor and the elderly are reduced.

It is not clear how much of that "fiscal drag" will occur in 1995/96. But on the face of it, it is not all that much.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) calculates that the budget deficit under the Republican plan will fall marginally this fiscal year, to about \$157 billion, from \$164 billion.

In the absence of the Republican plan, the deficit would rise to about \$189 billion, according to the CBO. That implies that the Republican budget-cutting efforts could trim economic growth in 1995/96 by about a half per cent.

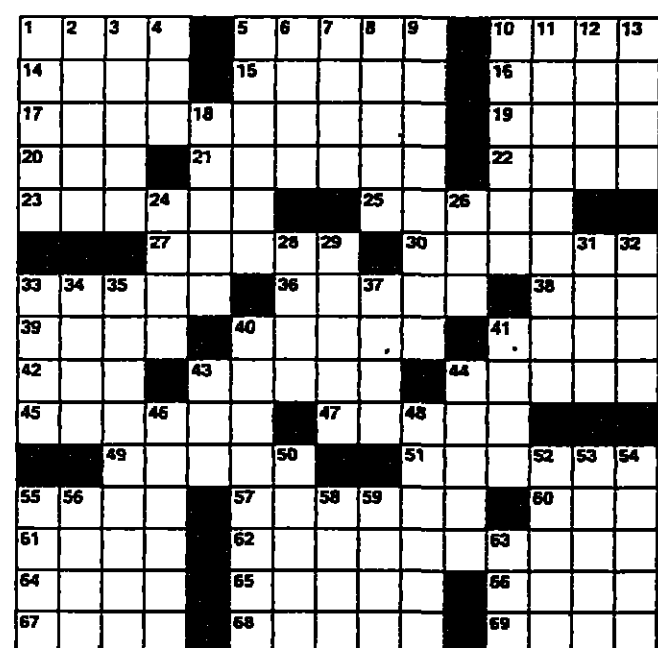
But some economists argue that overstates that impact.

The CBO estimate assumes that most American families will elect to take their promised tax cut next year in the form of a refund in April 1997, rather than adjusting the amount of tax taken out of each paycheck in 1996.

But if they choose to do otherwise, they will have that much more money to spend next year, boosting the economy.

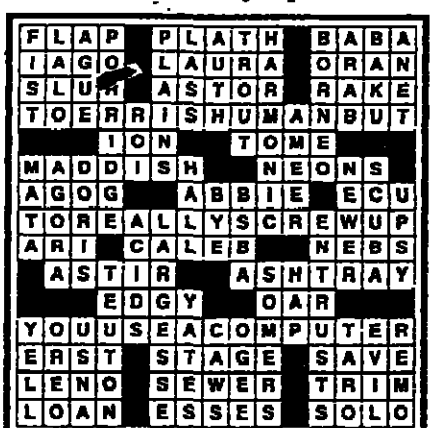
THE Daily Crossword by Mary E. Brindamour

- ACROSS
- Search carefully
 - Used a carefully
 - Dentist's request
 - Makes a hole in one
 - Meeting place of old
 - Pocket bread
 - Shon like fruit
 - Russian dictator of old
 - Beer container
 - Went bad
 - bitly
 - Sound system
 - Play
 - Beginning
 - Makes into law
 - Factions
 - Giant
 - SRO show
 - Feel sympathy
 - Play a guitar
 - colada
 - Questioner's word
 - Martin of Hollywood
 - Like a chimney
 - World Cup sport
 - Blackball
 - Root used in perfume
 - Bing into harmony
 - Denver stadium
 - Sound of surf
 - Turn down
 - Time periods
 - Certain candy
 - Dillon of TV
 - Computer command
 - Silver: abbr.
 - Simoleons
 - A bed of —
 - Antioxins



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Thursday's puzzle solved



- DOWN
- Barrels
 - Certain group
 - Come together
 - Youth gp.
 - No-nos
 - "no kick..."
 - Entertainer Sahl
 - Went astray
 - Reverie
 - Most favorable conditions
 - Ice cream flavor
 - Coup d' —
 - a soul (none)
 - Small warblers
 - Sound of surf
 - Miller or Jillian
 - Luncheon ending
 - Worn out
 - Hue
 - Remain
 - Adages
 - Repeat
 - Ice cream flavor
 - Tommy of Broadway
 - LA fisherman
 - Sweet wine
 - Sun, talk
 - Butterfly
 - Tops
 - Colton workers
 - "— evil, hear..."
 - Become one
 - Forty—
 - Over and above
 - Short reminder
 - Persia today
 - Flats: abbr.
 - Graf —
 - Orig. text

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"The TV screen feels sticky! Have you been flinging bean dip at the fitness lady again?"

Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AMMIX

SCABI

GLANET

YARREP

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles DOUSE LOVER FINERY FILLET

Answer: What the defensive lineman considered the quarterback — OFFENSIVE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Herri Arnold and Mike Argenio

Comes with a lot of accessories

GOES ALONG WITH A NEW CONVERTIBLE

Christopher, Kozyrev endorse Middle East development bank

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Andrei Kozyrev, co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, have issued a joint statement endorsing the establishment of a Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa.

Following is the text of the joint statement:

We strongly endorse the establishment of a Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa. The bank will reinforce the peace process, with its dual capability to foster economic policy dialogue and accelerate the growth of the private sector. It is designed to provide a lean, fast-reacting response to the needs of individual private investors and to help

build the infrastructure necessary to accelerate the growth of a dynamic, market-driven economy for the region. The bank will add a unique dimension to those financial institutions already serving the region.

We value indications of broad global membership, including from countries of Asia, North America, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa.

The bank will represent part of a continuing multilateral commitment to help the region achieve peace and prosperity for their people. We congratulate the regional parties for their vision in advancing the bank and welcome the opportunity to remain a permanent partner in their economic and social development through participation in the bank.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you schedule your time well today, you can carry through with plans to make the future brighter, especially in business.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get in touch with loyal friends who have proven themselves in time of need or stress. Avoid a new contact in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get busy and complete those career activities which you have already started and tonight make out checks and pay pressing bill.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Set up dates for recreation which you have found pleasurable in the past, and be with congenial friends and associates.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make sure you keep any promises made to family ties today, and be precise. Tonight, don't avoid any necessary duties of any kind.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to go after the data you need at right sources in order to make your activities easier and more profitable.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you are more careful in the handling of business and property today, you will gain more benefits and success later tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Rely on your past knowledge and experience to guide you in the future and you will have greater success. Use care in driving on the highway.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Have talks with elders today who can give you fine advice for your betterment, as well as other members of your family.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contact those persons today who have helped you with your problems in the past and trust them to do likewise at this time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study into unfulfilling formulas which can help you to gain greater assets at this time via accepted systems and get you greater success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Being conventional today can bring you greater benefits and forget about new interests tonight. Enjoy solitude this evening with your mate.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

Business Prices

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices gain on low turnover in the stock market as the local investment community was busy with the economic conference in Amman, brokers said.

The said few players who were in the market, who expected to get a boost.

Suez Canal cuts tolls slump in t

Cairo (AFP) — The Suez Canal Authority announced that it would cut shipping fees by 20 per cent from the start of next year in the number of ships using the international waterway.

Mohammed Ezzat, the authority's chairman, said a maximum fee of around \$500,000 would be fixed for ships whose tonnage was between 10,000 and 100,000 tonnes.

He said he hoped the decision would particularly help in an increase in the number of oil tankers using the canal as well as other types of tankers.

The number of tankers using the canal fell by around 10 per cent from 1,300 in 1994 to 1,170 in 1995.

Financial Markets

to Cairo

U.S. Dollar to International

| Country | Unit | Rate |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|
| United States | Dollar | 1.00 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 0.65 |
| Germany | Mark | 1.45 |
| France | Franc | 6.55 |
| Italy | Lira | 2036 |
| Spain | Peseta | 166.64 |
| Japan | Yen | 136 |
| South Korea | Won | 200 |
| India | Rupee | 47.5 |
| China | Yuan | 8.27 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 1,544 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 2.33 |
| Thailand | Baht | 50 |
| Philippines | Peso | 48.5 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 1.36 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 1.36 |
| Myanmar | Kyats | 125 |
| Nepal | Rupiah | 1.54 |
| Bhutan | Ngultrum | 2.47 |
| Maldives | Rufiyaa | 1.64 |
| Comoros | Franc | 200 |
| Madagascar | Ariary | 4.75 |
| Mali | Franc | 200 |
| Niger | Franc | 200 |
| Senegal | Franc | 200 |
| Gambia | Dalasi | 100 |
| Sierra Leone | Leone | 100 |
| Liberia | Dollar | 1.00 |
| Ivory Coast | Franc | 200 |
| Ghana | Cedi | 2.54 |
| Upper Volta | Franc | 200 |
| Chad | Franc | 200 |
| Nigeria | Naira | 193.6 |
| Cameroon | Franc | 200 |
| Cote d'Ivoire | Franc | 200 |
| Guinea | Franc | 200 |
| Guinea-Bissau | Escudo | 200 |
| Equatorial Guinea | Franc | 200 |
| Gabon | Franc | 200 |
| Angola | Kwanza | 200 |
| Mozambique | Meticup | 200 |
| Swaziland | Lilangeni | 26.7 |
| Botswana | Pula | 1.36 |
| Lesotho | Loti | 1.36 |
| Swaziland | Lilangeni | 26.7 |
| Malawi | Kwacha | 200 |
| Zambia | Kwacha | 200 |
| Botswana | Pula | 1.36 |
| Lesotho | Loti | 1.36 |
| Swaziland | Lilangeni | 26.7 |
| Malawi | Kwacha | 200 |
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| Malawi | Kwacha | 200 |
| Zambia | Kwacha | 200 |
| Botswana | Pula | 1.36 |
| Lesotho | | |

Prices gain a little; hopes high at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices gained a little on low turnover at the Amman stock market last week as the local investor community was busy with a major economic conference in Amman, brokers said Friday.

They said few players were active at the market, which is expected to get a boost after

the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit that ended on Wednesday.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the week ending Thursday was JD2.9 million, down 38 per cent from the previous week's JD4.7 million.

The report said 1.8 million shares changed hands under 2,089 contracts concluded

during the week, where the average daily trading was JD600,000, compared with the previous week's JD900,000.

The official AFM price index based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in the market closed at 158.8 points, up 0.9 points or 0.6 per cent, from the week's opening 157.9 points.

Industrials gained 1.3 per cent and banks and financial institutions went up by 0.4 per cent, while the services sector dipped by 0.2 per cent and insurance stocks by 1.3 per cent.

Industrials led sectoral trading during the week with a volume of JD1.24 million, or 42.8 per cent, of the turnover followed by banks and financial institutions with JD1.15 million, or 39.7 per cent, the services sector with JD400,000, or 13.8 per cent, and insurance stocks with JD110,000.

Stocks of 81 companies involved in the week's trading, with 34 firms gaining, 21 slipping and 17 remaining stable.

Brokers attributed the absence of investors and weak institutional involvement for the low turnover during the week.

"Everyone was busy with the MENA summit, with many investors actually attending the sessions of the conference for firsthand information how things are going," said a broker, who, like other AFM dealers, cannot be identified by name.

"Many in the market expect to see revived interest next week, when most investors will also be in a better position to judge which of the companies listed in the market stand to gain from the projects discussed at the summit," added the broker.

Suez Canal Authority cuts tolls by 20% after slump in traffic

CAIRO (AFP) — The Suez Canal Authority has announced that it would reduce shipping fees by 20 per cent from the start of 1996 after a drop in the number of oil tankers using the international waterway.

Mohammad Ezzat Adel, the authority's chairman, said a maximum fee of around \$500,000 would be fixed for tankers whatever their size.

He said he hoped the reduction would lead to an increase in the number of oil tankers of 160,000-170,000 tonnes crossing the canal as well as other types of tankers.

The number of tankers using the canal fell by around 10 per cent from 1,396 to

1,288 in the first half of 1995 compared with the same period in 1994, according to official figures.

The total number of ships using the waterway also fell by around 10 per cent from 8,355 to 7,617 in the same period.

Tolls will remain unchanged for ships other than oil tankers for 1996 "in view of the current situation on the international maritime transport market," said Mr. Adel.

The canal's receipts, \$1.9 billion in the 1994-95 financial year, are Egypt's second most important source of foreign currency earnings, after the salaries of Egyptians working abroad and ahead of oil revenues and tourism.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (26/10/1995 - 01/11/1995)
WEEKLY REPORT

| COMPANY'S NAME | TRADING VOLUME | PREV. CLOSING PRICE | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| ARAB BANK PLO | 169,725 | 240.500 | 240.500 | 243.750 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 82,667 | 4.410 | 4.410 | 4.500 |
| CAIRO AMMAN BANK | 54,020 | 4.400 | 4.400 | 4.400 |
| BANK OF JORDAN | 482 | 3.650 | 3.650 | 3.620 |
| MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK | 20,502 | 1.220 | 1.210 | 1.210 |
| INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK | 12,798 | 2.290 | 2.290 | 2.410 |
| THE HOUSING BANK | 270,798 | 5.030 | 5.030 | 4.400 |
| JORDAN KOWAT BANK | 3,314 | 2.850 | 2.850 | 2.820 |
| JORDAN GULF BANK | 151,494 | 1.160 | 1.160 | 1.150 |
| ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK | 11,430 | 2.750 | 2.750 | 2.810 |
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK | 7,213 | 3.640 | 3.640 | 3.670 |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 935 | 3.620 | 3.620 | 3.740 |
| BUSINESS BANK | 24,360 | 3.360 | 3.360 | 3.360 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 38,194 | 3.710 | 3.710 | 3.730 |
| BRIT EQUITY SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING | 670 | 3.350 | 3.350 | 3.350 |
| AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT | 121,815 | 1.010 | 1.010 | 1.020 |
| PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK | 177,481 | 1.560 | 1.560 | 1.630 |
| BANKS SECTOR | 1147781 | INDEX NUMBER: 192.02 | | |
| | CHANGE | + 0.35% | | |
| JORDAN INSURANCE | 4,800 | 3.250 | 3.250 | 3.200 |
| JORDANIAN INSURANCE | 60,415 | 4.100 | 4.100 | 4.000 |
| JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE | 1,211 | 2.710 | 2.710 | 2.690 |
| AL HILAL AL-ARABI INSURANCE | 38,694 | 4.250 | 4.250 | 4.050 |
| INSURANCE SECTOR | 105319 | INDEX NUMBER: 129.75 | | |
| | CHANGE | - 1.28% | | |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER | 95,817 | 1.440 | 1.440 | 1.450 |
| ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS | 673 | 5.800 | 5.800 | 5.750 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES | 5,245 | 2.660 | 2.660 | 2.600 |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES | 12,535 | 2.030 | 2.030 | 2.030 |
| MAINTENANCE & REPAIRING | 4,080 | 0.480 | 0.480 | 0.480 |

BUSINESS Daily Brief

A review of news from the Arabic press

Cairo Amman Bank signs accord with European bank

★ THE CAIRO-Amman Bank and the European Investment Bank have signed two loan agreements for \$17 million to bolster economic development in Gaza and the West Bank. The first agreement for \$13 million will finance small and medium-size companies for medium and long-term credits. The second for \$4 million, will support medium and small-size companies by investing in their equity (Al Aswaq).

Canadians announce investment

★ CANADIAN INVESTORS have announced their intentions to implement a \$65 million investment project at the Ghama-dan park, on the road to the Queen Alia International Airport. The two Canadian companies will cooperate with two Jordanian firms to set up a touristic/cultural project at the site to be known as "A Night in the Badia (desert)" (Al Aswaq).

| UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCORD HOTELS | 11,842 | 2.350 | 2.350 | 2.360 |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION | 27,454 | 3.270 | 3.270 | 3.230 |
| JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING | 570 | 1.190 | 1.190 | 1.150 |
| SARJA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY | 17,074 | 1.310 | 1.310 | 1.310 |
| UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP. | 13,864 | 1.090 | 1.090 | 1.100 |
| SERVICES SECTOR | | 199156 | INDEX NUMBER: 127.89 | |
| | | CHANGE | + 0.03% | |
| ATTACHEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING | 1,345 | 1.210 | 1.210 | 1.250 |
| THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES | 113,111 | 3.620 | 3.620 | 3.690 |
| JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES | 7,500 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| THE ARAB POTASH | 2,252 | 4.890 | 4.890 | 5.050 |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY | 24,647 | 9.410 | 9.410 | 9.400 |
| JORDAN TANNING | 2,553 | 7.600 | 7.600 | 7.400 |
| WOODEN INDUSTRIES | 700 | 1.430 | 1.430 | 1.400 |
| THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL | 77,675 | 1.300 | 1.300 | 1.440 |
| ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING | 43,734 | 4.430 | 4.430 | 4.790 |
| JORDAN DAIRY | 28,584 | 2.540 | 2.540 | 2.520 |
| THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING | 8,108 | 2.460 | 2.460 | 2.400 |
| SPINNING & WEAVING | 34,850 | 1.620 | 1.620 | 1.700 |
| DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT | 8,540 | 7.100 | 7.100 | 7.200 |
| ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY | 35,062 | 5.350 | 5.350 | 5.400 |
| LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 116,425 | 0.670 | 0.670 | 0.680 |
| ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING | 36,487 | 1.400 | 1.400 | 1.430 |
| NATIONAL INDUSTRIES | 22,587 | 1.050 | 1.050 | 1.060 |
| INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 35,631 | 1.830 | 1.830 | 1.850 |
| JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES | 1,538 | 1.020 | 1.020 | 1.060 |
| NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING | 205 | 4.100 | 4.100 | 4.100 |
| JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS | 16,161 | 1.290 | 1.290 | 1.310 |
| ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS | 8,190 | 1.980 | 1.980 | 1.980 |
| RAHMAN INVESTMENT | 3,899 | 1.610 | 1.610 | 1.620 |
| UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES | 2,999 | 3.110 | 3.110 | 3.140 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO. | 51,484 | 1.950 | 1.950 | 1.960 |
| JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY | 18,831 | 1.550 | 1.550 | 1.550 |
| INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES | 99,309 | 1.420 | 1.420 | 1.440 |
| UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY | 231,496 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.040 |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR | 94514 | INDEX NUMBER: 124.74 | | |
| | CHANGE | + 0.28% | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 2436771 | INDEX NUMBER: 158.77 | | |

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | New York Close Nov 1/1995 | Tokyo Close Nov 2/1995 |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Swiss Franc | 1.5785 | 1.5780** |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.6175 | 1.6176 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.7395 | 1.7406** |
| French Franc | 4.9065 | 4.8980** |
| Japanese Yen | 103.25 | 103.54 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2955 | 1.2951** |

Source: Reuters

Exchange Rates in Amman

| Currency | 1 MYR | 3 MYR | 6 MYR | 12 MYR |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.62 | 5.62 | 5.62 | 5.56 |
| Swiss Franc | 6.62 | 6.62 | 6.62 | 6.66 |
| Deutsche Mark | 3.87 | 3.87 | 3.87 | 3.87 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.75 | 1.87 | 1.87 | 1.87 |
| French Franc | 6.15 | 6.15 | 6.15 | 5.81 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.25 | 0.15 | 0.18 | 0.25 |
| European Currency Unit | 5.59 | 5.59 | 5.59 | 5.62 |

Source: Reuters

Exchange Rates in Amman

| Gold | USD/oz | JD/Gm |
|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 382.55 | 7.50 |
| Silver | 5.31 | 0.100 |

Source: Reuters

Exchange Rates in Amman

| Currency | Buy | Offer |
|---------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.2080 | 0.2100 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.2164 | 0.2180 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4789 | 0.5014 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.6198 | 0.6229 |
| French Franc | 0.1443 | 0.1450 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.0028 | 0.0028 |
| British Pound | 0.4453 | 0.4475 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |

Source: Reuters

Exchange Rates in Amman

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| Italian Lira | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |

Source: Reuters

Exchange Rates in Amman

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

Gems of the world . All birthstones in 18 & 21 K gold .

The NBA is back in action

Rodman moves to Bulls, O'Neal out for now

ONE PLAYER, one trade and the whole picture changes. One broken thumb and it changes again.

When Dennis Rodman took his radical rebounding act from the San Antonio Spurs to the Chicago Bulls, he jolted the Eastern Conference back to life. Not even Michael Jordan's return for a full season or Hakeem Olajuwon's quest for a third straight title is attracting such attention.

Now Chicago is the team to beat, the Western Conference isn't quite so formidable and two-time champion Houston is searching for respect all over again as the NBA season opens Nov. 3 with two new expansion teams in Canada.

"The Eastern Conference, all of the sudden, is going to be a tough battle," new Boston coach M.L. Carr said. The Orlando Magic will find out just how tough. The Eastern Conference champion, swept by the Rockets in the NBA finals, will have to play the first two months of the season without Shaquille O'Neal, who broke his thumb in an exhibition game.

Ready to take advantage O'Neal's early absence are the Indiana Pacers, the Charlotte Hornets and the New York Knicks as well as three up-and-coming young teams. Washington added veteran point guard Mark Price in a trade with Cleveland. Detroit hired Doug Collins to energize the Pistons and Milwaukee is looking for even more from its frontcourt duo of Glenn Robinson and Vin Baker.

"I think overall the rest, from top to bottom, is going to have more parity than a year ago," Magic coach Brian Hill said.

Certainly, the Western Conference is still loaded, with San Antonio, Utah, Phoenix and Seattle all having won at least 57 games.

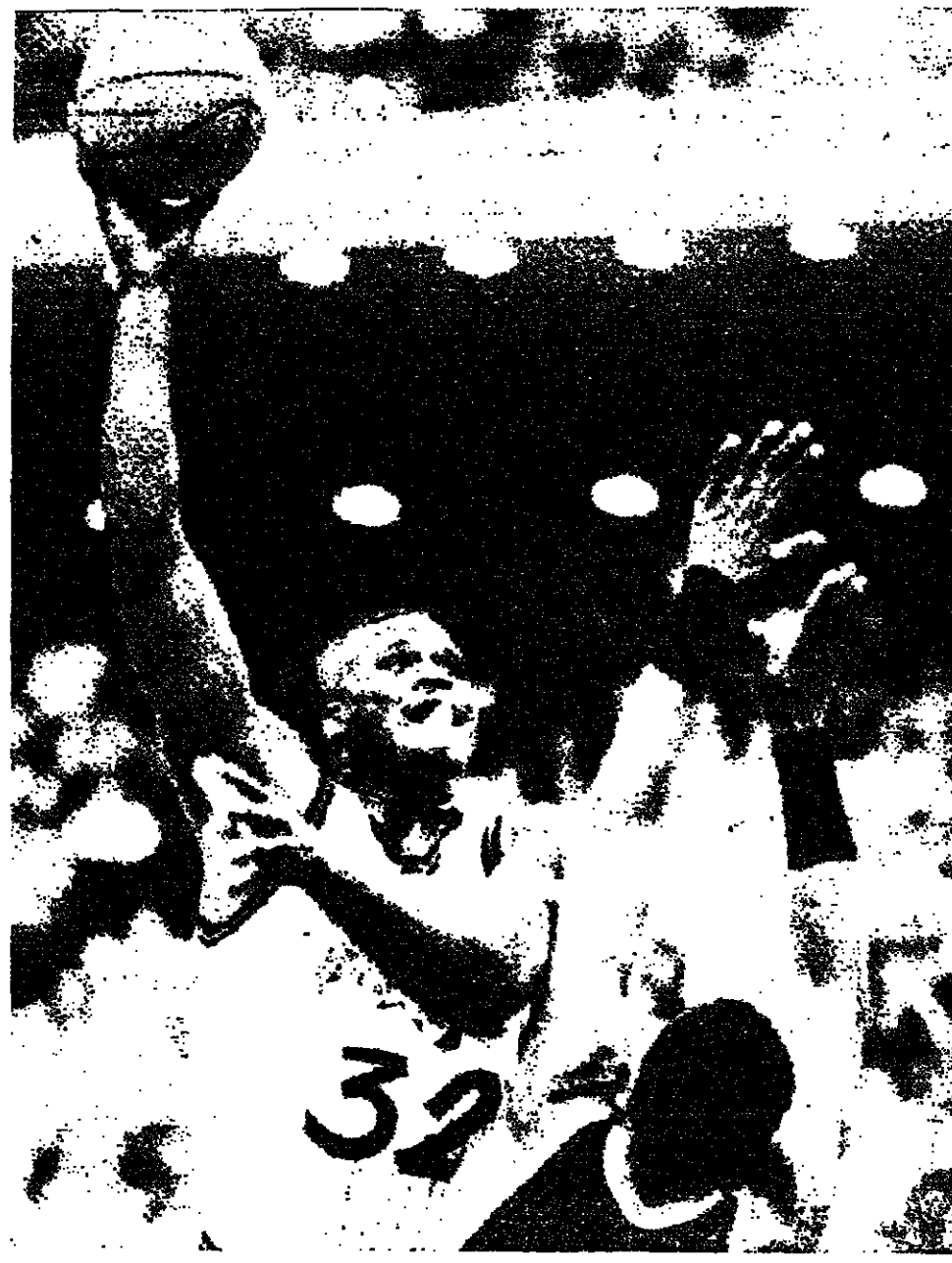
After another first-round flop, the Superstars are vowing to play with professionalism equal to their talent, the Los Angeles Lakers are young and hungry and the Suns' Charles Barkley is back with new teammate John "hot rod" Williams to help in the middle.

But all that may not matter, because Houston has Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon, whose dazzling playoff performances recalled their Phi Slama Jama days at the University of Houston. Even though Olajuwon missed the preseason following elbow surgery, the Rockets are looking to become the fourth team in NBA history to win at least three consecutive titles.

But the west may no longer be best, and one big reason is Rodman.

Despite claiming his fourth consecutive rebounding title, Rodman wore out his welcome in San Antonio by missing team buses, arriving to join team huddles.

"It was a sad, sad scenario," said Spurs coach Bob Hill, who welcomed the lopsided Rodman-for-Will Perdue trade.



Orlando Magic star Shaquille O'Neal #32 will miss the first two months of the new season after breaking his thumb in an exhibition game (file photo)

interesting time for them."

Behind O'Neal and the dazzling play of Antwan Hardaway, Orlando advanced to the finals having never won a playoff game but fumbled against the Rockets, falling in four games.

"Our returning players seem to have a little hunger left over from the finals," Hill, the Magic's coach, said. "I don't think we'll let down. I think we'll be a better basketball team. Whether we get back to the finals remains to be seen, but we'll be an improved team."

And not the only one. Miami, which entered the league a year earlier than Orlando but never had the Magic's lottery luck, went out and got itself a marquee coach instead.

Leaving New York and an aging Knicks team for sunny Miami, Pat Riley signed a five-year contract that includes \$15 million in salary, a 20 per cent ownership stake in the Heat and other lucrative benefits, an unprecedented package for a coach in any professional sport. By taking over a team that has only one winning season in its seven-year history, he added another pinch of spice to the Eastern Conference stew.

"I feel very good about the challenge," said Riley, who will be hard pressed to extend his 13-season streak of 50-win seasons. "We have to develop the talent and develop the pride. It's not going to be easy, I know that."

One Heat player who took an immediate shine to Riley's philosophy of physical defense was centre Matt Geiger. It was his hard foul that broke O'Neal's thumb.

Although Miami's deal for Rodman was big, the blockbuster deal of the offseason was the one reached between the league and the players' association that assures six years of labour peace.

Whether this season would open at all was in doubt until mid-September, when the players gave their approval in a referendum to a new collective bargaining agreement. The 226-134 vote defeated an effort by some players and agents to decertify the players' union, a fight that pitted player against agent and teammate against teammate.

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15-year-old swimmer tests positive for steroids

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (R) — A 15-year-old schoolgirl swimmer tested positive for steroids at the U.S. National Championships last August. U.S. Swimming said on Thursday, U.S. swimming, the sport's governing body, would not name the swimmer.

The positive drug test is the first for a U.S. swimmer since the 1988 U.S. Olympic trials when Angel Myers Martino tested positive for steroids and was kicked off the U.S. team.

One official indicated the swimmer is expected to be suspended for one year with the ban going into effect immediately, making the offender ineligible to compete in the March 6-12 U.S. Olympic trials in Indianapolis.

The positive result for anabolic steroids was at the U.S. Swimming National Championships at Rose Bowl aquatic centre in Pasadena, California.

The meet served as a qualifier for the Pan Pacific Games August 9-13, the first test event in the Olympic pool in Atlanta.

The news rocked U.S. Swimming, which has spent thousands of dollars in drug testing and mounted a successful campaign to ban the Chinese from the Pan Pacific Championships. China had 11 swimmers test positive during the Asian Games.

Ironically, John Leonard, executive director of the American Swimming Coaches Association, is in Hong Kong on a fact-finding mission to obtain more information on Chinese doping procedures.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Davenport scores 1st win in 2 months

OAKLAND (R) — Lindsay Davenport took a small step forward after a dismal summer and autumn slump by beating Tami Whidinger-Jones 7-5, 6-1 on Thursday in the second round of the Bank of the West Classic. "I didn't come in here with a lot of confidence and when you don't have that, you don't know what shots to hit," said Davenport, who is seeded third. "But after I won the first set, I felt a lot better." In other matches, up-and-coming Al Sugiyama of Japan upset sixth-seeded Romanian Irena Spirlea 6-4, 4-6, 6-1. The 20-year-old Japanese took advantage of Spirlea's spotty service games and erratic groundstrokes to earn a berth in the quarter-finals against Garrison-Jackson.

King denies falsifying fight

NEW YORK (R) — Boxing promoter Don King denied Thursday at his federal mail fraud trial that he submitted a fraudulent claim to try to steal \$350,000 from Lloyds of London for training expenses after a bout was cancelled. King, 64, is on trial in Manhattan federal court charged with nine counts of insurance fraud involving in 1991 Julio Cesar Chavez fight with Harold Brazier. If convicted, King faces up to five years in prison on each count and up to \$250,000 in fines.

Atletico take on Zaragoza Sunday

MADRID (AP) — Atletico de Madrid will be looking to the goal-scoring abilities of recovered Argentine star Diego Simeone when it faces Zaragoza on Sunday, knowing a victory is almost imperative if the side is to stay clear of a buoyant No. 2 Barcelona. Simeone, who has five goals to his credit, has been out through injury for several weeks. He joins star midfielder Jose Luis Caminero and forward Francisco 'Kiko' Narvaez to make three key players coach serb Radomir Antic can count on once again. Atletico goes into the match unbeaten with 26 points from eight wins and two draws, while Zaragoza, the defending European Cup Winners Cup champion and one of Spain's snappiest teams last season, lies half-way down the 22-team table with just 14 points.

Cuba make winning start

TOKYO (AFP) — Reigning champions Cuba opened the defence of their Women's World Cup volleyball title by thrashing Kenya 3-0 on Friday. The Cuban spikers, world and Olympic champions, needed only 49 minutes to score a 15-4, 15-6, 15-2 victory, making the first step towards winning the three straight World Cup. Asian Games gold medalists South Korea and Asian champions China got past their tough first hurdles to vie for the three tickets for the Atlanta Olympic Games next year. Chung Sun-Hye was the heroine of South Korea's 10-15, 15-13, 15-12 victory over the United States, emerging as the best scorer, winning 11 points and another nine for sideout. China also had to work hard against the Netherlands before pulling off a narrow 15-7, 16-14, 16-14 win over the European champions.

One in 4 footballers takes drugs

LONDON (AFP) — One in four young soccer players with London's professional clubs takes drugs according to a television programme to be screened on Sunday evening.

The survey, part of the London Programme, also explains that nine out of 10 players have been offered drugs, ranging from cannabis and cocaine to crack and LSD.

The revelations come at a time when soccer is still reeling from the drug confessions of Arsenal star Paul Merson. The programme claims that Sheffield Wednesday's Chris Waddle and Chelsea and England star Dennis Wise have also been targeted by drug-pushers.

Waddle reveals that he has been offered "E's" — the slang term for the drug, ecstasy.

Alan Hodson, the Football Association's director of sports medicine, when confronted with the survey results, admitted the F.A. may decide to review their drug-testing policy.

He said: "It certainly gives me great cause for concern." Merson, whose Arsenal career was threatened by his cocaine addiction, talks exclusively to programme about drinking, gambling and drugs.

He tells of the devastating effect that being a junkie had on his wife and son, the humiliation of going public with his secret addiction and the long haul back to recovery.

And he reveals that the nightmare lives on today, as the spectre of his shame continues to haunt his family.

In a telling passage, Merson is asked to document his lowest moment and replies: "Probably when I threw my wife down the stairs in front of my little boy."

Leaders Milan, Parma face lowly clubs

ROME (AP) — Up-and-down play has been the hallmark of the top Italian first-division soccer clubs this season, with none dominating in League and Cup matches.

Leaders AC Milan and AC Parma (5-2-1 in the league) shouldn't need top performances Sunday, as they both face relegation-zone clubs.

But Lazio of Rome, the league's only undefeated team, must be up for fourth-place Fiorentina.

Lazio, third at 4-4-0, followed its impressive 4-0 thrashing of defending champion Juventus of Turin last round with Tuesday's 2-1 second-leg loss against Lyon of France that eliminated the Romans from the UEFA Cup.

Conversely, Juve rebounded from the humbling loss with a 4-0 defeat of Glasgow Rangers on Wednesday to guarantee advancement in the Champions League.

With goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani out at least a

month with a knee injury, Lazio's suspect defense will have to come to the fore, particularly against the dangerous Fiorentina attack, led by Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta.

Batistuta's countryman Jose Chamot will be assigned the task of holding last year's top Serie A scorer in check.

The Rome side's attack (league-high 16 goals) struggled against Lyon and Italian international Giuseppe Signori missed a penalty kick.

He, and Pierluigi Casiraghi (two goals and an assist vs. Juve) bear the responsibility of scoring until Croat forward Alen Boksic (no league goals) gets going.

Fiorentina's midfield is injury-ravaged, with Massimo Orlando (operation on left knee Thursday) and Emiliano Bigica (muscle strain) definitely out for Sunday, and Giovanni Piacentini (right knee) questionable.

Parma is healthy and on paper shouldn't have prob-

lems at Cremonese, 17th in the 18-team league. Coach Nevio Scala's club has four wins and a draw in its last five Serie A matches.

But it bowed out to second-division Palermo in the Italian Cup and played terribly in losing 3-0 in a first-leg second-round Cup Winners Cup match with Sweden's Halmstad.

Up and down.

Milan, coming off consecutive lackluster draws with mediocre Vicenza and cross-town rival Inter, hosts 15th-place Cagliari in Sunday's night match.

Star striker Roberto Baggio has made a remarkably quick recovery from his latest leg injury and will start against Cagliari. But Marco Simone (left ankle) is out.

Milan has been the closest thing to an Italian powerhouse, advancing in cup play without a problem and sharing the league lead. But it has won just one of its last four Serie A matches.

Unlike the league's best clubs, Cagliari has been con-

sistent: consistently bad. The team's woeful total of four goals through eight matches is the league's lowest, and should not increase against Paolo Maldini and company.

And the Sardinians' defense (11 goals allowed) has not been good by Italian standards, despite the club's tactic of packing its backfield.

Juventus, which has slipped to sixth in the league and was knocked out of the Italian Cup by Atalanta of Bergamo, has dominated in the champions league. That's thanks in large part to rising star Alessandro del Piero, who has a goal in each of four matches in that competition.

Coach Marcello Lippi will finally have his three-man attack force back on the field together Sunday at Udinese, matching Del Piero with Fabrizio Ravanelli and Gianluca Vialli, who have been fighting nagging injuries.

Other matches Sunday: Bari-Atalanta; AS Roma-Padova; Sampdoria-Inter, Torino-Napoli; and Vicenza-Piacenza.

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- Q.1 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
AK 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 Q 5 4 AK 8 3 2
- The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 4 Dbl Pass 1 2
Pass 2 3 Pass 7
What action do you take?
- Q.2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
AA Q 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 8 4 AA 8 3
- The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 4 Dbl Pass 1 2
Pass 7
What action do you take?
- Q.3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AK 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 8 4 AA 8 3
- Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
- Q.4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AK 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 8 4 AA 8 3
- Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
- Q.5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AK 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 8 4 AA 8 3
- The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 4 Dbl Pass 1 2
Pass 7
What action do you take?
- Q.6 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AK 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 8 4 AA 8 3
- The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 4 Dbl Pass 1 2
Pass 7
What action do you take?

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Bayern, Benfica to meet in UEFA 3rd round

GENEVA (AP) — After downing soccer minnow Raith Rovers in the last round, Bayern Munich now must beat one of Europe's giants, Benfica, to gain the quarterfinal of the UEFA Cup.

The Portuguese team is a two-time winner and four-time finalist in the Champions Cup and Bayern striker Juergen Klinsmann, who scored three goals against Raith, will have a far tougher

time against Benfica. "Bayern Munich is a very difficult team," Benfica vice president Jose Gaspar Ramos said after the draw. "The quality of this match will be that of a semifinal, but we have a 50 per cent chance."

Bayern Munich official Karl Hopfner said, "Benfica is a big name. It's no dream draw, but I am confident." AC Milan and Barcelona, two more favorites to win

the title, stayed apart in the draw. Milan faces Sparta Prague of the Czech Republic, while Barcelona was drawn against another Spanish club, Sevilla.

Nottingham Forest, the only English team still in contention to win any of the three European competitions, had to beat one French club, Auxerre, in the last round and now faces another, Olympique Lyonnais.

PSV Eindhoven, which crushed England's Leeds 8-3 on aggregate, now must face Werder Bremen while the third French team to make it, Lens, faces the other Prague club, Slavia.

Denmark's Brondby, which ousted Liverpool to reach the last 16, now faces AS Roma, and the third Spanish team to make it to the third round, Real Betis, meets Girondins Bordeaux of France.

Women considering boycott of Australian Open

OAKLAND (R) — Former Women's Tennis Association President Pam Shriver said Thursday that players are considering boycotting the 1996 Australian Open if the tournament does not raise the women's prize money to equal the men's.

"It's not something we want to do, but we did talk about it in our players' meeting two weeks ago," Shriver told Reuters after her match at the Bank of the West Classic. "We are very uneasy about setting a precedent for the other Grand Slams to do the same thing. This has really struck a nerve with our players."

Tennis Australia, which runs the Australian Open, recently announced it would increase total prize money for the men at the 1996 event, leaving the women to earn less than their male counterparts except for the women's singles finalists.

The International Tennis Federation signed an agreement in September with the men's ATP Tour that the Grand Slams would double the prize money of an average ATP Super Nine event in exchange for a guarantee that Grand Slam results would rate double the amount of computer points in world rankings.

Tennis Australia, which could not afford to increase both purses equally, said its decision was justified because the women's sessions at the January event do not sell out and their television ratings are lower.

"I'm consulting with lawyers in Australia to see whether or not there is a legal basis for a challenge," Shriver said. "The question is whether you can establish equal prize

money over a long period of time and then revoke it." Shriver said the reason the women's sessions do not do as well as men's is poor marketing by Tennis Australia.

"They are not doing a good job of promoting us," she said.

"But if Monica Seles goes down there this year, she'll be the biggest thing going. Does that mean we should get a cut of the TV money?"

In 1976, the WTA, led by executive director Jerry Diamond and Billie Jean King, successfully threatened Wimbledon with a boycott over the issue of equal prize money. Shriver said it is time for the modern players to take a stand.

"It's the biggest issue facing our generation," she said. "If we allow this to happen without putting up a fight, we could face problems at the other Grand Slams."

Shriver said top players like Seles and Steffi Graf must support the WTA. "Monica told me two weeks ago that she was very upset about it," Shriver said.

After two years without a title sponsor, the WTA has just nailed down a three-year deal with Corel Corporation. Shriver said players are worried about starting off on the wrong foot.

"It's really tricky," she said. "The relationship with our new sponsor is the most important thing we have right now and we don't want to damage that. We're hoping that something can be worked out with Tennis Australia before we are forced to take a major action."

"We're keeping our options open."

Holyfield and Bowe have the spotlight now

LAS VEGAS (R) — Now that the other show up the block has been shut down, Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield are set as the main attraction on Saturday night in the rubber match of their best-of-three heavyweight world series.

For once, especially rare in the heavyweight division, two of the best fighters will test their skills against each other instead of looking to pad their records and egos with easy paydays.

Until Tuesday, when Mike Tyson's fight with lightly regarded Buster Mathis, Jr. was cancelled due to Tyson's broken thumb, the two fights were to be held on the same night about a mile apart.

But now Bowe-Holyfield has the spotlight in what could turn out to be the best fight of the year.

The two former heavyweight champions are fighting for a lot of money, but also to establish one of them as the best heavyweight in the world, despite the often outrageously unfair rankings of the major boxing organizations, which have failed to rank either man.

But in recognition of the quality of the scheduled 12-round bout at Caesars Palace, the New York Daily News says it will give the winner a title belt.

It's fitting, says Holyfield, that Saturday's fight be seen as "the true heavyweight fight. Don't nobody want to fight Bowe, don't nobody want to fight me."

In their first bout in November 1992, Bowe took the championship from Holyfield in a decision after 12 rounds, but remembered for a spectacular 10th round in which the two men stood toe-to-toe furiously punelling each other.

Bowe defended his title twice — in easy fights against Michael Dokes and Jesse Ferguson — before he fought Holyfield again a year after their first battle.

But Bowe entered the ring 11 pounds (5 kg) heavier at a soft 246 pounds (111.6 kg), and Holyfield scraped by with a majority decision to regain his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles.

That fight perhaps is best remembered for the "fan man" — a para-glider who landed on

the ring apron at Caesars in the seventh round, delaying the bout for about 20 minutes.

Holyfield went on to lose the title to Michael Moorer and briefly retired after it was suspected that he had a heart problem. But it apparently was a false alarm.

Bowe (37-1) is coming off an impressive sixth-round knockout of Cuban Jorge Gonzalez last June.

Holyfield (31-2), who is expected to weigh about 215 pounds (97.5 kg) to Bowe's 245 pounds (111 kg), says he'll knock out Bowe.

"I'm just taking Bowe out. It is my faith in God that allows me to know that I'm going to knock Bowe out," said Holyfield, who will receive \$9 million for the fight.

Bowe will be paid about \$7 million, plus a cut of the pay-per-view take.

Bowe said he "can appreciate Evander's confidence but that's just wishful thinking ... I'm hoping that's what he comes in hoping to do."

"I realise now Evander can't get away from my jab, so that's what I should do," said Bowe, who at his best, has one of boxing's best jabs, helped considerably by his four-inch (10 cm) reach advantage over Holyfield.

But recognising Holyfield's tremendous desire, the 6-foot-5 (1.95 metre) Bowe added, "I'm not going to short-change myself. He is a Bengal tiger."

Bowe, quick to laugh and playfully tease everyone, has not been completely able to win over the very serious, Holyfield, whom Bowe constantly calls a "gargoyle," effectively getting under the proud Holyfield's skin.

Holyfield, who stands 6-foot-2 (1.87 m), is very critical of what he calls Bowe's dirty tactics.

"He does it all the time," Holyfield said. "He hits behind the head often, cheap shots and all that. That all takes away from his ability. The man does have a lot of ability but he takes shortcuts and fouls somebody which possibly can hurt somebody."

Bowe counters by saying Holyfield has butted him, and besides "things happen, he should grow up and stop being a baby."

Tabaqchali wins golf tourney

By Roufan Nahhas

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The second British Ambassador's Golfing Day was concluded Friday at the Bisharat Golf Course with 60 players taking part.

The one day competition, sponsored by Forte Grand Hotel, included players from different nationalities.

The player with the lowest gross score was considered the winner.

Her Royal Highness Princess Muna attended the event and presented the winners with trophies and special prizes.

Following are the results: Adnan Tabaqchali came first in the overall category.

In the handicap group, Robert Thomas came in first, followed by Mary Ormand in the second place and S.W. Moon in the third.

The furthest shot was by Bill McDonnell and the nearest shot to the pin was by Roger Sykes.

The further shot by a lady was Trisia Keegan.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Princess Muna expressed her satisfaction with the game and hoped that there would be more Jordanian participants in this game in the future.

Medvedev, Bruguera crash out

PARIS (AFP) — Three times champion Boris Becker and fourth-seeded Michael Chang lived dangerously before reaching the quarter-finals at the \$2.25 million Paris Indoor Open on Thursday.

Becker trailed 0-3 in the final set of his showdown with American Todd Martin before forging back for a dramatic 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 victory in a four two-and-a-half hour power struggle.

Chang had to climb back from an even bigger deficit from win five games on the trot after trailing 2-5 in his final set against Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev. He finally clinched a thrilling 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory in an often acrimonious match in which Medvedev was upset by a series of line-calls while Chang was unhappy with the surface, claiming it was slippery and dangerous on the baseline.

As for Becker, he was

clearly relieved to survive against Martin.

"That was extremely close. You can never be 100 per cent sure that you are going to be a winner in tennis," he admitted.

Becker, who now faces Richard Krajicek — a player who has beaten him three times in five meetings.

seated Krajicek, who, like Becker, is still in contention for one of the four remaining berths in the eight-player ATP Championship finals.

Krajicek scored a non-nonsense 6-4, 6-2 win. Chang plays fellow-American Jim Courier for the 19th time in an official match with the two players level.

PARIS OPEN

The towering 6ft 5in (1m96) Krajicek didn't put a foot wrong against Dutch compatriot Paul Haarhuis, the world's top-ranked doubles player who has risen to 22nd in the singles.

Haarhuis was clearly feeling the after-effects of his marathon three-set victory over 1993 champion Goran Ivanisevic 24 hours earlier. He was never able to apply any real pressure on the 14th

pegging at nine victories apiece. The former world number one was as expeditious as Krajicek and he ended Magnus Larsson's first tournament since the French Open with a sober 6-3, 6-4 win.

Larsson, who saved two match points before beating Mark Woodforde of Australia in the previous round, clearly needs match practice after his long absence

NFL Browns eye move

BALTIMORE, Maryland (AFP) — American football fans here were heartbroken when their club moved away in 1984. But their frustration might be over if a television report here Thursday proves true.

The Cleveland Browns, founded in 1946 and a National Football League fixture for nearly five decades, have a hand-shake deal to move here into a proposed \$200 million stadium according to WBAL-TV.

Owner Art Modell has been thwarted in attempts to have a new stadium built in the Ohio city. The Browns play in an 80,000-seat lake-side stadium constructed more than 40 years ago.

Britain's top tennis player to retire

TELFORD, England (AP) — Jeremy Bates, Britain's top tennis player for most of the past decade, said he plans to retire after Wimbledon next year.

Bates, 33, was supplanted as the British No. 1 last summer when Canadian-born Greg Rusedski switched allegiance to Britain and took over the top spot.

Bates made his announcement at the British national championships, where he is the defending six-time champion.

"There is no particular reason why I have decided the time is right to start winding down my career other than I think the time has come to stop playing and move on," said Bates, who retired from Davis Cup competition earlier this year.

"I think you get a feel for this type of thing. I plan to reduce my schedule starting in the new year and to look at other options. I hope my career has benefited British tennis and I hope to return the support I have received in the years to come."

Bates, who turned pro in 1982, won the Wimbledon mixed doubles title with Jo Durie in 1987 and the Australian Open mixed with the same partner in 1991.

The highlight of Bates' singles career came in 1992 when he reached the last 16 at Wimbledon for the first time, gaining a match point before losing to Guy Forget of France. Bates also made it to Wimbledon's last 16 in 1994, again losing to Forget.

Bates won his only ATP tournament, the South Korean Open, in 1994, he became the first British player to win any event since 1977.

Bates reached his highest world ranking, 54, last April. He is currently ranked No. 147.

Bates became British No. 1 in 1988 and held the position until Rusedski opted to play for Britain earlier this year.

ANNOUNCEMENT

FROM THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
For unpredictable reasons, which have forbidden the Apostolic Nuncio to arrive in Amman it was decided to postpone the reception on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the enthronement of

His Holiness Pope John Paul II
from Saturday 4th of November 1995 to a later date.

The American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) has been given a grant by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to construct a protective, membrane-covered space frame shelter over an archaeological site at Petra.

ACOR seeks a single source vendor for engineering the space frame, the membrane roof, supporting columns and foundation; fabrications of all components; transportation of all materials to the site; and erection of the cover.

The space frame will be of an all aluminium hub and spoke system, coated with Kynar paint of custom color. The membrane will be poly-vinyl with tedlar coating (7.5 oz/yd. minimum weight fabric with custom color).

Qualified vendors may obtain bid documents from The American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), P.O. Box 2470, Jabal Amman, Amman 11181 Jordan, Tel. 846-117, 841-132; Fax 844-181. Bids must be received by noon, December 8, 1995.

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FAREWELL GREETINGS

TO ALL THE RESPECTED AND LOVED PEOPLE

On the occasion of being dispatched back to Samsung Electronics Head Office in Seoul, Korea, my family and I, would like to relay our deepest and heartfelt appreciations and thanks to all the people we have met in this warm country - Jordan.

Looking back and the past three years we have spent here, we have made many friends who have been a great help to us during our stay.

I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to, all those people who we met in the market, all the doctors who took great care of us during our illness, all the teachers who taught our children, all the wonderful neighbours who have helped us in every aspect.

Especially thanks to our agent Mr. Ahmad Issa Murad, and all his family for their kind support and assistance to us during our stay in Jordan. Also, we appreciate all the respectable business partners and their employees for their kind and warm hospitality.

We apologise for not being able to visit all of you personally, that is why I'm writing these humbled words to express my thanks and appreciation to each and every one.

Wherever I go, wherever I would be, I will never forget this warm country and the people of Jordan. I will keep in my heart the wonderful and unforgettable memories.

I wish always for this country a prosper under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

Thank you and hope to see you soon in the near future.

Abdullah Chang and his family
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| PHILADELPHIA | | PLAZA | | CONCORD | | MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" in Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 p.m. Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh | Presents (Ahlan Tatbee) Welcome Normalisation Show starts at 8:30 p.m. For reservation call 625155 |
| Jean Reno, Natalie Portman & Gary Oldman...in Leon "The Professional" Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | | Nabila Obeid & Yousef Sha'ban ...in Huda & His Excellency the Minister (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Weekend At Bernies Part II Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 | | CONCORD "1" On Deadly Ground Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15 | | | |

Chernomyrdin gets some Yeltsin powers

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Friday he had assumed partial control over key ministers while President Boris Yeltsin recovers from a heart attack.

He said he has been "coordinating" the work of the ministers of defence, security, foreign and the interior — the first admission that Mr. Yeltsin has given up some presidential powers.

The four, known as Russia's "power ministers," report directly to Yeltsin, who was rushed to hospital on Oct. 26 after his second mild heart attack in less than four months.

"The president has to be partially relieved of these duties to give him a better chance to recover," Mr. Chernomyrdin told a news conference after seeing Mr. Yeltsin in hospital. "But of course we seek the president's advice on all key questions."

The 57-year-old prime minister, who under the constitution would take over as temporary head of state if Mr. Yeltsin was incapacitated, said:

"I am glad Boris Nikolayevich is getting better and is working on documents."

Asked if it was Mr. Yeltsin who asked him to take over some control of the "power" ministers, the premier replied: "I could see it in his eyes that Chernomyrdin should work harder."

Mr. Yeltsin, in his first meeting with the prime minister at Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital, also discussed the torrid campaign for the Dec. 17 election.

The Kremlin chief called for fair play in the run-up to December parliamentary elections that have been thrown into chaos by a decision to ban the leading Liberal Party Yabloko.

Meanwhile, Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinsky appealed to the supreme court to overrule the electoral ban.

"Yabloko is defending here the people's right to choose, the right to have free elections and ... after all the right to bring about a legal change of power," Mr. Yavlinsky told the single judge.

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Lubbers confirms NATO candidacy

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Former Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers formally announced his candidacy Friday for the post of NATO secretary general in a move which would appear to strengthen his position as favourite to take over the reins of the Atlantic alliance.

In a statement published here, the Dutch government said Mr. Lubbers had indicated he was "available" to take up the top civilian job at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and had "agreed to be a candidate."

"It's in the bag," one diplomat said here of the Lubbers candidacy. "The Dutch must have got a green light from the Americans for their candidate otherwise they would never have gone ahead like that after weeks of secret negotiations."

The announcement was made after Mr. Lubbers returned from a series of consultations with top U.S. officials in Washington, telling reporters at Amsterdam's

Schiphol airport that "they were good meetings."

Mr. Lubbers' main rival for the post, former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, was also in Washington to meet senior officials Friday, and still appears to have the backing of certain elements within the U.S. State Department.

In Copenhagen on Friday, U.S. ambassador to Denmark Edward Elson was quoted in the conservative daily Jyllands-Posten as strongly recommending Mr. Ellemann-Jensen as the perfect candidate.

The Dane had breakfast with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Friday and was due to visit the White House later in the day, as Mr. Lubbers had done Thursday.

But Mr. Ellemann-Jensen's chances were considered to have been dashed after he criticised France for resuming nuclear testing, since when Paris has strongly opposed the Danish candidate and supported Mr. Lubbers.

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Jewish settlers urge Palestinians to open new era in relations

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish settlers' leaders on Friday launched an unprecedented appeal to Palestinians to end their differences and share the lands hotly disputed by both sides.

In a letter to the Palestinian daily Al Nahar, four moderate rabbis from West Bank settlements urged the Palestinian people to "turn a new page in their relations."

Al Nahar, published in East Jerusalem, splashed the letter on its front page and devoted a whole inside page to the text.

Zaki Nusseibeh, a specialist on Israeli affairs for the paper, who edited the text said it was a "revolution."

"They are calling on us to open a new chapter in our relations, to share the territories and the water."

Rabbi Menahem Fruman from the Tekoa settlement wrote: "The Israeli occupation of the territories is dead and will lead the settlers and the Palestinians to a new era of cooperation."

He said he had tried to visit Gaza many times but was refused entry by the Israeli army.

Rabbi Yoel Bin Noun, from Ofra, in the north of the West Bank, said "The solution to our conflict is to set up an Israeli-Palestinian confederation."

"We are closer to you than the Jordanians or any other people in the region. The settlers don't want to dominate another people."

Most of the settlers did not come to punish the Palestinian nation or to judge the Palestinians. They love

the land, all the land... as the Palestinians do."

Settler David Ramati, from Kyriat Arba, blamed successive Israeli governments since 1967 for the "confiscation of lands" belonging to the Palestinians.

"We came here because we loved these lands that are part of our history," he wrote.

About 140,000 settlers live in more than 140 settlements scattered across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Their fate is one of the main hurdles yet to be overcome in future talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Rabbi Fruman, one of the five settlers interviewed by Al Nahar, said they initiated the unusual interview after realising that many Palestinians view the settlements as a symbol of the Israeli occupation.

"We wanted to clarify that we are not here to rule them but to live with them," Rabbi Fruman told the Associated Press.

The interview was unusual, coming amid increasingly harsh rhetoric on both sides as Israel begins its withdrawal from the West Bank under the Sept. 28 autonomy accord.

The fate of the settlers living among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be settled during permanent settlement talks, slated to begin in May 1996.

Under the September accord, Israeli troops will withdraw from Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank, but will retain full control over the settlement areas.

Palestinians ultimately want Israel to relinquish its hold over the Jewish settlements.

"The Palestinian people and its leadership will not accept settlers as they are now living in the West Bank," said Ahmad Tibi, a close aide to PNA President Yasser Arafat. "The Palestinian sovereignty has to include the settlements as well."

The Jewish settlers are concerned that the interim period of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank cities will undermine their safety.

Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun, one of the founders of the settler movement, told Al Nahar that neither people should rule the other.

He said he opposed Israeli occupation of Palestinians living in the West Bank but warned that "if the Palestinian government will take control over the settlements, things will explode and nobody wants that."

Rabbi Fruman said an existing settler-Palestinian dialogue was already leading to some collaboration.

Palestinians and settlers agreed to cooperate to stop the building of the bypass roads that Israel is building for the settlers to allow them to drive around Arab cities, Rabbi Fruman said.

Palestinians oppose the roads because they are being built on land confiscated from private Arab owners, while these settlers oppose a separation of the two peoples.

British pensioner fails in appeal over shooting

LONDON (R) — British newspapers and politicians reacted angrily Friday to an appeal court ruling that an 83-year-old should pay £4,000 (\$6,300) to a man he shot in a raid on the pensioner's leased vegetable patch. Britain's Court of Appeal has confirmed a lower court order against Ted Newbery, who fired his shotgun from his potted shed in 1983 and hit the burglar, 29-year-old Mark Revell, causing him injuries which have left permanent scars. Angela Knight, Conservative member of parliament for Newbury's home town of Ilkerton in central England, protested: "The law has been shown up to be an ass by the judges." The Sun, a popular tabloid which has organised a readership appeal to help Newbery pay the money, said: "It is a monstrous injustice which will enrage all right-thinking people." Revell received a 4-1/2 month prison sentence for breaking into Newbery's greenhouse. He told the court the injuries meant he was confined to his cell for 23 hours a day.

Alec Baldwin disputes facts of alleged fight

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Alec Baldwin, accused last week of punching a photographer and breaking his nose, Wednesday disputed the lensman's version of the fracas. Baldwin was arrested last Thursday for allegedly punching freelance photographer Alan Zanger as he tried to take pictures of the star and his actress wife Kim Basinger as they arrived home with their newborn daughter, Ireland Eliese. "I dispute what he says," Baldwin said when he appeared on NBC's "Tonight Show With Jay Leno." He said he spotted Mr. Zanger in a van outside his home when he drove his wife and first-born child home from hospital. "I ran in the house to get some shaving cream and sprayed it on his windows so he couldn't shoot out. I was saying 'let's have some laughs.' That's when he got out the car..."

Said Baldwin, who starred Sunday as macho Stanley Kowalski in a CBS television version of the Tennessee Williams play A Streetcar Named Desire. The 51-year-old photographer complained his nose was broken. Local TV station KNBC interviewed Mr. Zanger Wednesday in Hollywood and he repeated his allegations. "I think Alec should tell the truth. I did nothing wrong. I was in a legal parking space. Alec is completely in the wrong. (he was) in a rage and beat the hell out of me." The Los Angeles City attorney's office is reviewing a police report about the alleged attack to decide whether to charge Baldwin with battery, which carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Prison officials held after forcing jailed boy to marry

DHAKA (AFP) — Two officials of Bangladesh's southern Barisal Jail were arrested after allegedly forcing a 15-year-old boy detained there to marry a woman seven years his senior, a newspaper reported here Friday. Masud Alam, who had refused to marry the woman, filed a lawsuit against the jail superintendent, the marriage registrar and seven others as soon as he was freed on bail Oct. 25, the daily Al Mujaddid said.

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Italians prepare to try Priebke

ROME (Agencies) — Military prosecutors in Rome said Friday they were stepping up preparations so they can try former Nazi Erich Priebke as quickly as possible after he is extradited here from Argentina.

Chief Military Prosecutor Antonio Intelsano said his office was still awaiting confirmation from Argentina of the extradition.

The Argentine Supreme Court accepted Thursday Italy's demand for extradition of the one-time SS captain, who will be tried here for his part in the massacre of 335 Italian civilians more than half a century ago.

"We are in the process of making preparations independently of the extradition to start as quickly as possible the jurisdictional phase to get the trial opened," Mr. Intelsano said.

He said the former Nazi would be held in preventive detention upon his arrival in Italy.

Mr. Priebke, who has lived in the southwestern Argentine resort town of San Carlos de Bariloche for the past 46 years, has acknowledged taking part in the March 22, 1944, Ardeatine Caves killings of 335 Italian civilians including 77 Jews in reprisal for an attack on the German army.

Mr. Priebke has admitted killing "one or two" of the hostages and said he agreed with the orders to execute the others.

The extradition could lead to Italy's most emotional war crimes trial in decades.

"It will be a day of light for justice, a day of sunlight," said former Justice Minister Giovanni Conso, who signed an international arrest warrant for Priebke after he was discovered living in Argentina in 1994.

The Argentine court's decision ended 17 months of legal wrangling and overturned the decision of an appeals court in August to rule against his extradition.

The previous ruling outraged Italy, Germany and the Jewish community and fueled charges that Argentina was still a haven for Nazis.

"What is most important is that (Argentina) has recognised Italy's right to have the chance to put on trial a person who took part in one of the worst human tragedies," Mr. Conso told Italian Radio.

Tullia Zevi, president of Italy's Jewish communities, welcomed the Argentine supreme court's decision.

"The extradition of Priebke is positive for the image of both Italy, which seeks justice for its victims, and for Argentina, which in past showed too much tolerance in accepting and supporting tens, if not hundreds, of Nazis and escaping fascists," she said.

Mr. Priebke says he acted on the orders of Gestapo chief Herbert Kappler when he took part in the reprisal murders. The victims, most of them members of the Italian resistance, were bound and shot in the back of the neck.

Iraq praises UAE president's call for end to U.N. sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq heaped praise on Friday on Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who has said the time for Arab reconciliation and the lifting of sanctions against Baghdad has come.

"Ahlan Wasahlan Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan in Baghdad," declared the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra in a banner headline.

In conciliatory remarks last month Sheikh Zayed, whose country joined the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war, urged Arab countries to "try to turn the page of the past and cooperate to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people."

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have made clear they oppose any easing of the sanctions before Baghdad has complied fully with U.N. demands made following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Iraq's state-run newspapers took Sheikh Zayed's overture as an indication of Arab displeasure with Kuwait's uncompromising stand towards Iraq.

"Kuwait (now) faces Kuwait," said Al Thawra, adding that the UAE attitude was bound to bring Baghdad closer into the fold of Gulf Arab states.

Sheikh Zayed's remarks have turned him into a hero and a true Arab in Iraqi eyes, focusing attention on the plight of the Iraqi people under U.N. sanctions.

Al Thawra interpreted his remarks by saying that Sheikh Zayed was telling the Iraqis that he shared their suffering and that they were not alone in efforts to find a way out.

Since Iraq recognised Kuwait within new borders demarcated by the United Nations, Baghdad has tried

to improve relations with Gulf Arabs.

Iraqi officials say they have partly succeeded with Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, and Sheikh Zayed's remarks were bound to help melt the remaining ice.

Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was congratulated by Sheikh Zayed on his overwhelming victory in last month's referendum in which he was the sole candidate and won 99.96 per cent of the vote.

The official press said on Friday that the Arab League's secretary-general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, who endorsed Sheikh Zayed's call, would soon tour Arab countries to prepare the ground for pan-Arab reconciliation.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia visited Baghdad on Wednesday and discussed Arab reconciliation with Iraq.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "is ready to resume talks tomorrow, on condition that the Syrians respect the commitments they have made on this issue during talks with the United States," said Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman Aliza Goren.

"It is completely untrue that Israel wants to delay the negotiations and that a message on this has been sent via the intermediary" of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, she added.

"On the contrary, it is the Syrians who are putting up obstacles to a negotiations by putting off a meeting of military experts due to follow that of the chiefs of staff."

The countries' two chiefs of staff last met in June in Washington, after an earlier meeting in December. But since then the talks have ground to a halt, despite U.S. efforts to bring both sides back to the negotiating table.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on Thursday accused Israel of trying to delay a resumption of the talks until April, saying the request had been put to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in talks Monday with Mr. Christopher in Damascus.

Beirut (AFP) — Beauty queen runner-up Nicole Ballan could lose her title over the distribution of a pornographic film in which she starred with her boyfriend, sources said on Friday. The scandal started when Ms. Ballan, the first runner up to Miss Lebanon 1995, and a boyfriend decided to make a home-made pornographic film for their private use. The film was mysteriously copied and made available to modelling and advertisement agencies for which Ballan worked and then began making the rounds of many Beirut homes. Security sources said two people were arrested and an initial investigation launched into how the videocassette began trading in Beirut, where it is selling for 100 to 150 dollars. Several copies have already been confiscated, the security sources said. Tourism Minister Nicholas Fattush, who sponsored the Miss Lebanon competition this summer, was asked to comment on the Ballan affair on Thursday and said: "What happens behind closed doors is none of our business. People are free to do as they like, but when the limits of individual freedom are over-stepped then we need to examine the situation." Mr. Fattush said no decision had been taken on whether Ms. Ballan should be stripped of her title. "We are investigating and examining things, and in light of this a decision will be taken."

Israel plans to sell warplanes to Sri Lanka draw fire

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli plans to sell warplanes and patrol boats to Sri Lanka have come under fire from the foreign ministry, according to an internal document published by the press on Friday. "For political reasons it is doubtful that Israel will benefit from such a contract," the ministry document said. It warns that Israel could be seen as an ally of the Colombo authorities in its war with the Tamils. So far Sri Lanka has not normalised its relations with Israel, the document highlighted. Since Israel normalised its diplomatic relations with India, Sri Lanka has ceased to act as a mediator between the two countries. Meanwhile, two Indian warships, one a missile frigate, are expected in the Israeli port of Haifa next week as guests of the Israeli navy, military officials said. The defence ministry plans to sell five Kfir planes at a cost of \$25 million and six coastguard patrol boats. Kfir, made by the Israeli Aircraft Industries, is equipped with an American engine, but no longer used by the Israeli air force.

GIA leader organised French blasts from London, police say

PARIS (AFP) — A leader of Algeria's fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group (GIA) ran a bombing campaign in France from a base in London, French police alleged Friday.

The leader, whose pseudonym was given as Abu Fares, gave orders to 28-year-old Algerian Boualem Bensaid, who was arrested in Paris late Wednesday in a police swoop, police said.

They said they had tapped the telephone of Bensaid, who passed on the orders to bombing groups in France. Police said they had been unable to establish Abu Fares' real identity.

Earlier, press reports said that Abu Fares also supervised the English edition of the GIA newsletter, Al Ansar.

The Figaro newspaper, quoting from information it said came from telephone-tapping and documents seized at Bensaid's Paris home, said he had close contacts with an international network of extremists based in London.

It said Bensaid's arrest

"should lead the inquiry into the international ramifications of the terrorist network to London."

London is "an international Muslim nerve centre," Figaro said, adding that "in the space of a few years, London has become the place where Islamic propaganda is published and disseminated around Europe."

The newspaper added: "In parallel with this ideological activity, Britain has also been transformed into an impressive fund-raising network for financing Algerian extremists."

Meanwhile French police said that Bensaid's fingerprints bore a strong resemblance to those found on a gas canister that exploded in Paris last month.

The fingerprints were found on sticky tape on the gas canister that went off outside the Maison Blanche metro station on Oct. 6 hours after the funeral near Lyon of suspected bomber Khalid Kelkal, slightly injuring 12 people.

Kelkal, 24, was gunned down by police on Sept. 29 in a hamlet also called Maison Blanche, west of Lyon.

Police said the fingerprints of Bensaid, who was arrested after allegedly ordering the bombing of a busy market in Lille, northern France, next Sunday, were "of the same family" as those on the canister.

But police said they would await an expert opinion to be certain.

Police added, however, that other fingerprints found during probes of eight bombings or attempted bombings since the July 11 murder of Sheikh Abdul Baki Sahraoui, imam of a Paris mosque and the moderate co-founder of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), did not match any of those of other arrested suspects.

This suggested that some bombers were still at large, police said.